



WEEKLY "E" NEWS- from the RACI NSW 1st November 2008

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.

Chemists from the NSW RACI scoop the pool in the Young Tall Poppy Science Awards!

Three of our members have picked up these prestigious awards (read more page 3)

Vale John Harle: Dear Chemists, You may remember we gave John Harle, a foundation member of the Chemical Education group a citation in 2004 for outstanding contributions over many years. John died on 8th Oct 2008 following a long period of ill health. (Tribute page 4)

An Invitation The Royal Australian Chemical Institute (NSW Branch) in conjunction with The Dairy Industry Association (NSW Branch) and The Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology (NSW Branch) *proudly presents:* **RACI/AIFST/DIAA CHRISTMAS PARTY 2008** Friday 28th November – Darling Harbour **There are only 10 Tickets remaining!! And a new Ticket Price (pages 5 and 6)**

Position Vacant **POST DOCTORAL RESEARCHER** Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, NSW has a 5 month position (Jan-June 2009) for a post doctoral researcher exploring phenolic chemistry and the urinary metabolome. Page 7 full details

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Attending the 16th R&D Topics Student Conference? Do you have a student who has work to present? The conference committee are still keen to receive abstracts for oral and poster presentations. In addition to this, the RACI NSW Branch Invites RACI Student Members From NSW Universities To Apply For A Travel Bursary to present a paper at the 16th Annual RACI analytical and environmental divisions R&D Topics conference to be held from the 6th to 9th of December at Macquarie University (Located in Sydney). **We now welcome Sydney student presenters to apply – Student Presenters residing in Sydney may be eligible for a petrol voucher to assist with travel costs associated with travelling to this event.**

Co-ordinators Office Hours over the next fortnight As the year draws to a close the NSW branch coordinator needs to spend a little more time on her thesis. Over the past month she has racked up quite a bit of over time for the RACI, and consequently has accrued much flex time. Therefore the office will be open limited hours over the next fortnight. Pre arranged meetings will still be attended by the coordinator, and emails will be checked regularly. **Urgent Enquiries** can be sent to the Branch Secretary Joseph Bevitt j.bevitt@usyd.edu.au. I appreciate your understanding in the matter. *And Thank you to those who have not bombarded the Coordinator with phone calls at home during this time!*

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAW CHANGES If you are unable to attend the AGM but wish to vote either for or against the amendments please send a proxy vote to the Honorary General Secretary, RACI National Office, 21 Vale Street North Melbourne, VIC 3051, by close of business on Friday, 28 November. The 'Appointment of Proxy – General' form is Schedule A2 of the By-laws and is available on the RACI website, www.raci.org.au <<http://www.raci.org.au>> under downloads.

Website of the Week: This week we look at **Thirty-Two Free Chemistry Databases** <http://depth-first.com/articles/2007/01/24/thirty-two-free-chemistry-databases> Special thanks goes to John Zavas who suggested this website. Since the site has been suggested – the coordinator has found the site very useful!!

Free Thermo Spectroscopic Solutions Seminar: Where: Parramatta Rydges When: 19th Nov
Learn about FT-IR, Raman, and Near IR See page 6 for more details

Upcoming RACI Conferences and Symposia As evidenced by the lengthy E News' of late there is an awful lot going on at the moment. This article summarises all the upcoming conferences and symposia

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

<http://www.chem.unsw.edu.au/RACI/News.html>

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*

Important Dates in Chemistry's History Oct 31-Nov 6 *We again will celebrate many noble prize winners birthdays this week. Among these: an industrial chemist who has worked extensively on organic dyes, a quantum chemist, and a chemist who is well recognised catalysis chemist. We also remember the discoverer of Nitrogen.*

Please scroll down for further details.....

Chemists from the NSW RACI scoop the pool in the Young Tall Poppy Science Awards!

“Young Tall Poppies engage in a program of school visits and educational seminars following their award which provides students and teachers with an understanding of the practical applications of science, promotes the relevance of science in everyday life and encourages students to consider further studies and careers in science.

Young Tall Poppies represent a national resource of science expertise and a commitment to communicating science to schools, universities, companies, policy and science forums. Many Young Tall Poppies are at the forefront of international research developments and hold senior leadership and policy positions.”

This week the NSW RACI Branch was notified that three of our members have been awarded the NSW Young Tall Poppy Science Award 2008. This honour is bestowed by the Australian Institute of Policy and Science for Outstanding Achievement in Science and Community Engagement.

Our three members, who have been awarded prizes this year are **Dr Malcolm McLeod** (who technically is from ANU but had spent the last several years researching at the University of Sydney), **Dr Peter Rutledge** (from the University of Sydney), and **Dr Pall Thordarson** (from the University of NSW). The RACI NSW is very proud of their achievements – several of their colleagues notified the RACI office so to ensure that we were notified of their success.

We look forward to hearing about more of their work that has led to their research being recognised in this way. Keep an eye out in the December Newsletter (inserted into the December CIA) for the full story.

(information for this story sourced from the <http://www.tallpoppies.net.au/> website)



TALL POPPY
CAMPAIGN

Vale John Harle

Dear Chemists,

You may remember we gave John Harle, a foundation member of the Chemical Education group a citation in 2004 for outstanding contributions over many years. John died on 8th October 2008 following a long period of ill health.

The following represents our tribute to him in 2004:

John Harle completed an honours year in chemistry in 1949 at the University of Sydney. After completing teacher training at the Sydney Teachers College, John went into the teaching profession, beginning at the Teacher's College then teaching in country state schools. After lecturing in chemistry and soil physics at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College in 1954-5, John took up a lectureship at the University of Sydney in 1956 in the School of Chemistry. He was awarded his Master of Science in 1957, progressed to Senior Lecturer and in 1966 he became Director of First Year Studies. He retained that position till he retired in 1988. He was awarded a Fellow of the Australian College of Education in 1980.

His interest in chemistry and chemical education in particular, saw him enrol as a student member of the RACI in 1949, become an associate in 1956, and a life member in 2000. John was one of the foundation members of the RACI Chemical Education Group in 1974. Prior to that date, a loose association or interest group called the NSW Chemical Education Group met at the Sydney Teachers College in the grounds of the University of Sydney. John was secretary of the ChemEd group for some years. He assisted the group in running the Titration Competition, and was the main worker hosting the competition at the University of Sydney in his position as Director of First Year Studies. After retirement in 1988, John returned every year to assist in the running of the competition until 2002, after which ill health forced him to hang up his lab coat.

John's expertise in chemistry at the school-university interface was utilised in his position as the chair of the NSW Chemistry Syllabus Committee and as the Chief Examiner of the Leaving Certificate Chemistry Examination during most of the 1960's. In this position, he was responsible for the setting of this major external examination and its accurate and timely marking. In the late 60's he was a member of the "Wyndham" Science Syllabus Committee which combined physics with chemistry and other sciences in secondary schools, and was later chair of the Chemistry Syllabus Committee which permitted the taking of chemistry as a separate science again as thoughts on the matter changed.

John has been a leader and a team player in the ChemEd group. His teaching of chemistry has inspired many students to take up chemistry as a profession. We feel that John is a most deserving member of the Chemical Education group to receive a citation for his contributions to chemical education.

Margaret Lindsay, Secretary, RACI NSW Chemical Education Group

Position Vacant



POST DOCTORAL RESEARCHER

Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, NSW has a 5 month position (Jan-June 2009) for a post doctoral researcher exploring phenolic chemistry and the urinary metabolome. Analytical methods will include HPLC-DAD, LC-MS and UPLC. Results will be published, and subject to funding, the position may be extended. The applicant must have a strong background in chromatography, and an understanding of phenolic chemistry is desirable. Expressions of interest and questions regarding the position should be directed to Professor Kevin Robards.

K Robards

School of Agricultural and Wine Sciences

Charles Sturt University

Locked Bag 588

Wagga Wagga NSW 2678

krobards@csu.edu.au <<mailto:krobards@csu.edu.au>>

Phone: 02 69332547

The Monthly NSW Newsletter



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An Invitation

The Royal Australian Chemical Institute (NSW Branch)
in conjunction with

The Dairy Industry Association (NSW Branch)
and

The Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology
(NSW Branch)

proudly presents:



RACI/AIFST/DIAA CHRISTMAS PARTY 2008 Friday 28th November – Darling Harbour

The RACI NSW Branch has joined this year, for the first time, the NSW Branches of AIFST and DIAA the celebration of the year past and so strengthening the relationship between the three organisations.

Members and Guests will board the beautifully restored **South Steyne** floating restaurant moored at Darling Harbour from 7pm for welcome drinks and finger food, before sitting down to a sumptuous 2 course dinner. Gary Kennedy will be our MC, raffling the many hampers donated annually by organisations from the Food and allied industries and providing musical entertainment as our DJ until the evening closes at 11.30pm.

The RSVP date is 14th November and it is advisable to book early as this venue has limited capacity. Being a combined event for several industry organisations this year capacity is expected to be met. Please book by calling or emailing Dr. Attila Tottszer on 02 9888 9077 or <attila.tottszer@advancedanalytical.com.au>. **HURRY!** Places are filling quickly for the 2008 Christmas party, an event enjoyed by members and their guests for many years now. **Seats are limited, BOOK NOW.**

Ticket Prices: RACI Member rate - **\$66.00**;
rate applicable for bookings made for 10 or more.

Non-Member - **\$99.00**

(Prices include G.S.T and drinks package which excludes spirits).

We thank all sponsors! Please take a moment to study the next page. Thank-you.





ACKNOWLEDGING OUR CONFIRMED SPONSORS

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to:

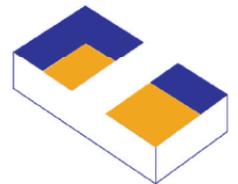
GOLD SPONSOR:



SILVER SPONSORS:



BRONZE SPONSORS:



TECHSTAF



Attending the 16th R&D Topics Student Conference?

Do you have a student who has work to present? The conference committee are still keen to receive abstracts for oral and poster presentations. The RACI NSW Branch Invites RACI Student Members From NSW Universities To Apply For A Travel Bursary to present a paper at the 16th Annual RACI analytical and environmental divisions R&D Topics conference to be held from the 6th to 9th of December at Macquarie University (Located in Sydney).

R&D Topics brings together postgraduate students from Australia and New Zealand in a relaxed environment to present research specialising in analytical and/or environmental chemistry. Applications should include an abstract of the paper to be presented (up to one A4 page) and a letter of support written by the academic supervisor outlining how attendance at the conference would benefit the student's chemistry career. Send applications to:

RACI NSW office:

The School of Chemistry

UNSW

Sydney, 2052

Or racinsw@chem.unsw.edu.au Applications need to be in by Friday 7th November 2008 (Students particularly from regional areas of NSW are encouraged to apply: eg Wollongong, Wagga, Albury, Newcastle, Lismore, Dubbo, Armidale)

We now welcome Sydney student presenters to apply – Student Presenters residing in Sydney may be eligible for a petrol voucher to assist with travel costs associated with travelling to this event.

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The 'Appointment of Proxy – General' form is Schedule A2 of the By-laws and is available on the RACI website, www.raci.org.au <<http://www.raci.org.au/>> under downloads.

Website of the Week



Thirty-Two Free Chemistry Databases

<http://depth-first.com/articles/2007/01/24/thirty-two-free-chemistry-databases>

Special thanks goes to John Zavas who suggested this website. Since the site has been suggested – the coordinator has found the site very useful!!

Three informative seminars in one day!

Free Spectroscopic Solutions Seminars—2008



Brisbane—November 17
AIBN-University of Queensland



Sydney—November 19
Rydges-Parramatta



Melbourne—November 21
Novotel-Glen Waverley

FT-IR



- Learn about the latest developments in FTIR microscopy & imaging
- See live demonstrations of the new Nicolet iN10 microscope and Nicolet iS10 spectrometer on real samples.
- Discover advanced new software tools to make data collection and material characterization easier than ever before
- Improve your FTIR techniques & skill

Raman

- Learn about the fundamentals of Raman spectroscopy
- Discover how recent developments in Raman instrumentation make Raman more affordable and easier to use
- See a live "Point & Shoot" Raman demonstration
- Learn about applications of Raman in Forensics, Material ID and QC labs



Near-IR



- Learn about the theory of NIR spectroscopy & Instrumentation
- Discover how to build a "Workflow" that seamlessly takes you from data collection to report generation
- Learn about using chemometrics for qualitative and quantitative analysis
- See live demonstrations of the Antaris II performing "real world" applications

Thermo Scientific is pleased to announce that our popular Spectroscopic Solutions Seminar Series will make a return to Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne in November.

This years seminar series will be divided into three sessions: FT-IR, Raman & Near-IR and you may register to attend any of the sessions to suit your individual interest and available time.

Each session will showcase our widest range of new molecular spectroscopy products ever released, including:

- The Nicolet iN10 & Nicolet iN10 MX range of integrated single point and imaging FTIR microscopes
- The foolproof Nicolet iS10 FTIR spectrometer for QA/QC and analytical laboratories
- The new family of DXR Raman microscope and SmartRaman spectrometers
- OMNIC Spectra advanced material characterization software tools
- The Antaris family of FT-IR & NIR analyzers for at-line and on-line applications

Who should attend?

- Laboratory Managers
- Forensic Scientists
- Failure Analysis Investigators
- QA/QC and Analytical Chemists
- Material Scientists
- Researchers
- Anyone wishing to dramatically improve FT-IR, Raman or NIR measurements in their labs or on their production floors

Why you should attend

- This will be the most fun and informative spectroscopy seminar you have ever attended
- You will discover the latest developments and applications in FTIR, Raman and Near-IR spectroscopy
- You will be able to share your knowledge and experiences with other attendees

More Information and Registration

To view the seminar agenda and to register on-line, please visit <http://www.accelacomm.com/jsp/source/35/50080581/>. Alternatively, contact us by phone: +61 2 8844 9500 or email: analyze.au@thermo.com

Don't miss out!

Space at each seminar is limited, so register your interest to attend as soon as possible and no later than November 14.

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Upcoming Conferences and Symposiums



**23rd RACI Organic Division Conference,
ORGANIC 08, Hobart,**

Tasmania 7 – 12 December 2008

Register online at

<http://www.organic08.org/>

ACROSS Symposium on Advances in Separation Science



8-10th of December 2008. (<http://www.across.utas.edu.au/ASASS>)

The key dates for the conference

17th of October 2008	Abstract Deadline for Oral and Poster Presentations
31st of October 2008	Notification of abstract acceptance and finalisation of the program
14th of November 2008	Deadline for Early Registration
8th of December 2008	Opening of the Symposium

16th RACI R&D Topics Student Conference. This year it is being held again in NSW!
Macquarie University Saturday, December 6 - Tuesday, December 9
<http://www.cbms.mq.edu.au/rdttopics/index.html>

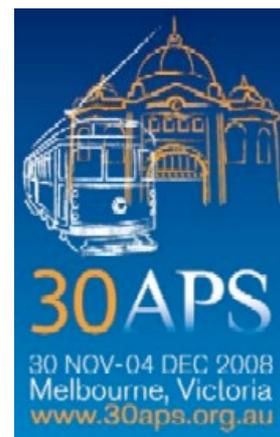
RACI Electrochemistry Symposium: New materials and New Methods in Electrochemistry Nov 27-28 @ UNSW

http://www.chem.unsw.edu.au/RACI/RACIElectrochemDiv%20webpage/raci_electrochemistry_symposium.htm

NSW RACI Organic Symposium 2008 Location: School of Chemistry, University of Sydney, NSW 2006 Date: Wednesday December 3rd
<http://www.chem.unsw.edu.au/RACI/NSWOrganic2008.pdf>

ChemEd 08 Notre Dame University, Fremantle, Western Australia Final Registration: Closes 21 November 2008
<http://www.raci-chemed08.org>

30 APS - 30th Australasian Polymer Symposium The Albert Park Sebel Hotel, Melbourne, Victoria <http://www.30aps.org.au>



Important Dates in Chemistry's History Oct 31-Nov 6

Oct 31

b. 1835 Adolf von Baeyer (Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Adolf Von Baeyer), researcher on indigo; evolved strain theory of carbon rings; prepared acetylene; discovered barbituric acid, 1863; Nobel Prize (1905) in recognition of his services in the advancement of organic chemistry and the chemical industry, through his work on organic dyes and hydroaromatic compounds,

b. 1925 John A. Pople received the Nobel Prize in 1998 for his development of computational methods in quantum chemistry shared with Walter Kohn for his development of the density-functional theory.

Nov 1

- Hooker Electro-Chemical Company founded 1909.
- Union Carbide incorporated as Union Carbide & Carbon Corp., 1917.

2

b. 1841 C. H. C. Willgerodt, researcher in the conversion of internal ketones to terminal thioamides (Willgerodt reaction).

3

b. 1749 Daniel Rutherford discovered nitrogen (N, 7) ('noxious gas') 1772; first to distinguish between carbon dioxide & nitrogen; invented a maximum & minimum thermometer.

b. 1854 Jokichi Takamine, isolated the hormone adrenaline from natural sources.

- A. Schwerdt crystallized poliomyelitis virus at University of California, 1955.
- American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists founded 1921.

4

b. 1862 Charles L. Reese improved manufacture of dyes & explosives.

b. 1903 Boris A. Arbuzov discovered formation of free radicals of triarylmethane derivatives; investigated properties of terpenes & phosphorous containing heterocyclics.

- Cornerstone of laboratory building named after Frederick Havemeyer laid, 1896.

5

b. 1854 Paul Sabatier, researcher in catalysis in organic chemistry; discovered process for hydrogenation of oils to solid fats with Senderens; Nobel Prize (1912) for his method of hydrogenating organic compounds in the presence of finely disintegrated metals whereby the progress of organic chemistry has been greatly advanced in recent years with F. Victor Grignard for the discovery of the so-called Grignard reagent, which in recent years has greatly advanced the progress of organic chemistry.

b. 1891 Neil K. Adam, researcher on unimolecular surface films; discovered existence of a two-dimensional state of matter at water-air boundary.

6

b. 1857 William A. Noyes, first chief chemist of US Bureau of Standards (now National Institute of Standards & Testing); editor of *Journal of the American Chemical Society* (1902-17).

b. 1886 Ian M. Heilbron synthesized naturally occurring compounds, such as vitamins A & D.

Ref: Monthly Historical Events In Chemistry by Leopold May, The Catholic University of America

<http://faculty.cua.edu/may/Chemistrycalendar.htm>