



NSW Branch well represented at the 15th Annual RACI R&D Topics Conference December 2007- Flinders University

Between the 9-12th of December 2007 approximately 150 chemistry students from across Australia covered upon Flinders University in Adelaide. The annual RACI Research and Development Topics Conference has been running since 1993 with great success. The conference is organised by postgraduate students for postgraduate students (honours, masters, PhD students and early career researchers) who are currently undertaking research in analytical and/or environmental chemistry, where delegates present their research through oral seminars or posters.

Students from NSW universities accounted for 15% of the delegates presenting at the conference. UTS was very well represented- with 5 students giving oral presentations and 7 presenting posters, they covered a broad range of topics from detection of explosives, detection of particles generated from the illicit removal of firearm serial numbers, differentiation of inks, and detection of peptide hormones. Macquarie University had 4 of its students give oral presentations. Their descriptions of organic aerosol formation, electrochemical immunosensors, and the effect on CO₂ levels on volatile organic compound emissions from native plants generated a good deal of interest.

Paul Stevenson – representing UWS presented his very topical research on “Going Greener – reducing the environmental impact of chromatographic analysis”, his talk gave pause for thought for many students as to how they could improve their own research. Wollongong University also sent a delegate, who provided an insight to the toxicity of contaminants on certain marine creatures. Whilst the University of New England’s sole delegate Martijn Boerkamp very clearly discussed the utilisation of optical fibre sensors for the monitoring of crystallization processes. The University of Sydney sent three delegates, all three who were also involved in research carried out at the National Measurement Institute. Lance Brooker (who is also Secretary of the NSW RACI Young Chemists) spoke on LC-MS/MS quantification and matrix effects and took out the prize for best oral presentation (for the second year in a row!)

In addition to the students from NSW universities, Professor Justin Gooding from the UNSW attended the conference as a guest speaker. Professor Gooding presented some of his work on Biosensors - and how they can be developed with great specificity for biological molecules – allowing for the detection of a single species in very complex matrices (e.g. Blood). The conference also provided opportunity for the RACI to present the Royal Australian Chemical Institute's Lloyd Smythe Medal to Professor Gooding for his contributions to Analytical Chemistry over the last 15 years.

This type of conference is very beneficial to chemistry students as it allows them to present their work in front of their peers in a very friendly environment. Many friendships are formed during the conference and students are able to share their ideas and support each other as they discuss the highs and sometimes the lows of their research.

In 2008 the conference will be held at Macquarie University, here in NSW. It will enable many more NSW chemistry students to present their work and attend this unique R & D Conference. It will also provide opportunities for our members to support this event. Planning for the conference is already underway and we will keep our members informed of developments in the months to come.



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



OLLÉ PRIZE

DUE ON FRIDAY 28th MARCH 2008

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”*



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, 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?

Our Website

Keep an eye on the RACI NSW website over the coming weeks. Thanks to Dr Ron Haines here at UNSW the website will be better maintained this year! He has been able to locate some software that will enable me to better manage the website. It will be a working progress over the coming months - but I trust that the NSW RACI members will keep me accountable so I keep things up-to-date on the website. Remember also, members are encouraged to contribute suggestions and ideas so that our Website improves.



Do You Receive our Weekly E News email?

Each week we send our NSW members a weekly newsletter - keeping you up to date with all the up coming events. Each week there are a number of emails returned to the office – since some of the email addresses on the RACI are not current. Could this apply to you? If you havent heard from us for a while via the email – please let me know!!! Contact the NSW branch office on racinsw@chem.unsw.edu.au and your details can be updated.



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<p>SYDNEY Unit 2A, 2B Leighton Pl Hornsby NSW 2077 Tel: 02 9482 8433 Fax: 02 9482 8833 rowensw@rowe.com.au</p>			