The Royal Australian Chemical Institute NSW Branch

Our Vision

To provide a valued Professional Chemistry Service and Professional Advice and Education to our Members and the Community of New South Wales.

Our Mission

Since 1917....

The Branch exists for the benefit of the Members of the Groups and Sections of Chemistry throughout New South Wales.

The Branch operates as a cooperative of the Sections and Groups, it recognises the strength of the organisation is built on the Sections Groups and Divisions and will act in the best interest of its Sections and Groups while maintaining the interest of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute in the area.

The Branch is committed to maintaining the professional ethos of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and enhancing the valuable, trusted and respected role that Chemistry plays in the community.

Please Note: This report comprises all information received prior to Dec 08. Some groups and individuals failed to submit before this date.
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Branch Committee

President’s Report

I would like to start by taking the opportunity to thank our active members of the Branch, Group and Section Committees. With their efforts we have and can continue to support our RACI members.

This year saw a growth in our education activities. The two major events were the Nyholm Lecture series and the Crystal growing competition. Dr Peter Rutledge from the School of Chemistry The University of Sydney presented the first series of the new Nyholm Lecture this year after a 3-year revamping period. The lecture “Chemicals are Good” was outstanding and incredibly successful. Over 450 high school students around NSW attended. The RACI NSW Branch is indebted to the time and contributions made by Peter in his efforts to deliver a successful lecture.

The Crystal growing competition also was a success this year. Dr Attila Tottszer attracted over 3000 students from 150 primary and secondary schools to the competition. Over 1000 crystals were entered and judged! A massive achievement! I think both the Nyholm lecture and Crystal growing competition will grow in the coming year!

Science Week saw the NSW Branch have an active role on the State planning committee and participated in the Newtown Futures Festival and Powerhouse museum - Ultimo Science Festival. The Marvellous Molecules activity was again very successful. At the Newtown Futures Festival over 75 children and 40 adults made molecules. Dr Joseph Bevitt was an invited expert speaker on spoke on the Syncotron. Dr Adam Cawley spoke on a panel of experts for our thoughts on the future. At the Ultimo Science Festival, we had prime location at the Powerhouse and attracted over 100 kids making molecules and much interest from their parents.

This year, the NSW Branch held a number of workshops including the Chem Ed forum where 32 members attend. It is amazing to hear of the growth and efforts of Joanne Jamie, Julie Haeusler, Chris Fellows, Jenny Jones, Ian Jamie, Charles Foggiani, Jo, King and Siggi Schmidt. The NSW President’s dinner followed the forum. Our guest speaker was Professor Robert Lamb and Prof Barbara Mersle School of Chemistry, the University of New South Wales was awarded the President’s Award for the continual support of the NSW Branch.

For the first time, the NSW Branch held a Strategy Meeting. There were 21 members who attended and listened to the changes and strategies being developed by the National Office from Dr Bob Watts and a debate on the future of the RACI was conducted by Drs Simon Apte, and Adam Cawley.
Our involvement with the careers night series has continued and I'd like to single out our Western Sydney colleagues particularly Dr Gary Bowman who has embraced this initiative and is instrumental in influencing many young individuals to take up chemistry as a profession. So thanks to the Western Sydney Section for hosting and arranging such career development nights for aspiring Chemists.

The activities of the Groups and Sections are too numerous to list; they are crucial to our existence and I thank once again those individuals who made them happen. Our organisation, like many other parts of our lives are changing, and I ask that we all embrace the change and continue to grow our organisation for the benefit of its current and future members.

There are many volunteers in this organization and many have contributed for a number of years. I thank them for their efforts and continual support - Associate Roger Read, David Edmonds, Neil Galbraith, Bob Ryan, David Black, Clarrie Ng, Gary Bowman, Andrew McDonagh, Jenny Jones, Simon Apte, Paul Pui, John Eames and Maree Stuart.

The Honorary Treasurers job is not an enviable one most of the times. But for this year it has been particularly difficult with many changes being implemented and many issues still being resolved. Hence I thank Dr. Ian Jamie for the excellent work that he has done on our behalf. As Ian is stepping down from this role – I wish to thank him for his time and efforts over the last couple of years.

The Honorary Secretary job is demanding and I wish to convey my sincere thanks to Adam Cawley who has contributed to a number of activities his time and efforts. He is an inspiration to many young chemists and there are few with his enthusiasm and passion.

I wish to thank our NSW Branch Coordinator and RACI member, Ms. Edwina Hine, who has done an outstanding job in supporting not only the NSW Branch Committee, but the Groups and Sections who have asked for his assistance. I wish her the best in her thesis writing – I know how difficult it is to write and work at the same time

Mary Collins
President
Branch Subcommittees

Standing Applications Committee (SAC)

The numbers are quite interesting for the 2007/08 period, particularly when we compare them to the year previous. Several points should be highlighted at this time

- Our growth in new members did slow (by 29%)
- **However** there was a significant reduction in resignations from RACI Membership in NSW (down by 75%)
- An **increase** in reinstatements (members who had relinquished their membership – once again reinstating as members)
- Thus in 06/07 NSW numbers grew by 39, whilst the 07/08 period saw membership numbers grow by 50 (increase 22% of additional members – not total membership)

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<th>Level of Membership</th>
<th>New Members (July 06 - June 07)</th>
<th>Upgraded Members (July 06 - June 07)</th>
<th>New Members (July 07 - June 08)</th>
<th>Upgraded Members (July 07 - June 08)</th>
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Fellowship Committee

In the 12 month period to 30th June 2008, three applications for Fellowship of the Institute from NSW were approved by the Board. Congratulations to:

- Professor Janice Aldrich-Wright
- Robert Geyer
- Dr Ian Jamie

NSW Office Bearers Workshop, February 2008

35 of our members and others interested parties met at The Ranch Hotel at Epping for our annual office Bearers Workshop, held jointly this year with our Chemistry Education forum. It was very productive day, RACI members were able to hear from all the groups and sections and learn about the activities they have planned for the year.

The Chemistry Education Forum generated great interest. We had visitors from TAFE, several Universities, and an early childhood educator who teaches gifted toddlers chemistry. Associate Professor Charles Fogliani AM discussed the development of the Australian National Chemistry Quiz, from its inception in 1982 to what it is today, whilst Joe King highlighted some software developments for Chemistry educators to assist them in identifying specific knowledge or skills using real-time assessment and student performance analysis and to provide access to related resources.

Dr Siggi Schmid spoke on the teaching/research Nexus in Chemical Education, and the advantages gained by students who undertake bridging courses in chemistry before they begin undergraduate Science studies (if they have little chemistry background). Julie Haeusler from the NSW Department of Education and Training, spoke on the IT developments enhancing students chemistry education. Many in the forum’s audience were surprised by the virtual online experiments she demonstrated.

Dr Ian Jamie discussed the ASEL Project and how it can help develop the practicals that are taught at undergraduate level in universities. Associate Professor Joanne Jamie told the forum how her Indigenous Outreach Program evolved from her research within indigenous community on Bush medicines. Dr Jenny Jones involved the forum audience as she explained “Teaching Chemistry for Deeper Understanding”. The forum concluded with Dr Chris Fellows who runs the science in the Bush program up at the university of New England.
2008 RACI NSW Presidents Awards Dinner

Saturday 16th of February saw our annual Presidents Awards Dinner which was held at the Ranch in Epping. This event was enjoyed by almost 40 of our members as we got together at the conclusion of our very successful Chemistry Education Forum to celebrate the achievements of several of our members.

Fellowships were presented to Janice Aldrich Wright and Robert Geyer for their active involvement in the RACI NSW. Associate Professor Janice Aldrich –Wright Associate Professor Janice Aldrich-Wright (pictured right with our President Mary Collins, is a senior member of the academic staff of the University of Western Sydney. She is highly research active, for example, she has contributed 14 research papers in international chemistry journals over the last 2 years

Robert Geyer, (pictured left with our president), currently works for Workcover NSW where he is Manager of the Chemical Analysis Branch, he has over 30 technical publications and 25 years of experience in the analytical chemistry area. Robert has been active with NATA where he is Chair of the Occupational Hygiene Technical Group and also Chairs the Committee CH-031 (Examination of Workplace Atmosphere) for Standards Australia.

Associate Professor Charles Fogliani (AM), and Dr Chris Fellows were both recognised for their significant contributions to Chemistry Education.

Charles Fogliani (pictured left with our President) has been a long serving RACI member - best known for his The Australian National Chemistry Quiz. In 2007 the Quiz was conducted in all Australian States and Territories, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, New Zealand, Western Samoa, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Brunei, India and for the first time entries were also received from England
Chris Fellows (pictured right during the Chem Ed forum) an active RACI member in the New England section and the Polymers Group works tirelessly each year for the Science in the Bush, which provides an insight to high school students in regional areas as to what chemists actually do.

This year the Presidents Award was presented to Professor Barbara Messerle from the UNSW (Pictured left). The award recognised the sustained and continuing support of the RACI in NSW that she and the School of Chemistry at UNSW has provided.

We were fortunate enough to have Prof. Robert Lamb- Director of the Surface Science and Technology Group, at the University of Melbourne, as a guest speaker who enlightened us on the Australian Synchrotron Research Program (ASRP). The evening was enjoyed by all who attended.

**Branch Sections**

The NSW Branch operates through a number of regional sections outside the Sydney metropolitan area. These are:

- Newcastle
- New England
- Riverina-Murray
- Northern Rivers
- Wollongong
- Western Sydney

**Northern Rivers**

The section holds a few events annually. Tuesday evenings at 5.30 pm is usually preferred with up to 12 attending.

The sections aims are to:
- bring together Chemistry and related professionals a few times each year,
- provide educational, interesting speakers and laboratory.factory tours, &
- support Chemistry education (Nyholm lecture, Titration Comp, etc)

Activities held were:
Tuesday 28 August 2007 – the section AGM was held at the SCU and Tony Tyler, Chair/Secretary & Robert Weatherby, Treasurer, attended. The election of office bearers – as there were no other nominees T Tyler and R Weatherby were re-elected unopposed.

A function was planned for Wollongbar, talks and a laboratory visit, for late 2007 but there were insufficient numbers and it was cancelled

16th February 2008 – Tony Tyler, NR section chairman attended the 2007 NSW Branch Meeting held in Sydney

June 2008 – the Annual High Schools Titration Competition was held at the Southern Cross University in Lismore - 10 Teams from 5 high schools participated. The Northern Rivers section’s perpetual trophy for regional winners was won again by the Alstonville High School team.

Unfortunately, although it was planned, the Nyholm lecture had to be cancelled due to the low uptake by the schools. Hopefully, 2009 will prove more successful

This year was quiet but these activities do provide members and guests with a small program of activities and a couple are planned for later this year.

Tony Tyler  
Chair

Riverina Murray

The main activity of the Riverina-Murray Section is support of high school chemistry education in our region. The local HSC chemistry students visit our labs each February for the "HSC Chemistry Days", designed to enable them to complete experiments prescribed in the NSW curriculum, but for which they have inadequate facilities within their own schools. These days are organised in conjunction with the Eastern Riverina Science Teachers Association (ERSTA). It has been an on-going success and is well appreciated and highly rewarding for both volunteers and participants.

This year approximately 160 students from 20 schools in the region attended over four days. While numbers were down slightly from the previous year, the students and teachers appreciated the ability to access resources to enable them to fulfil the requirements of the HSC curriculum. This included interviews with a diverse range of scientists, both chemists and non-chemists, from around Charles Sturt University. This activity helps students to identify practicing male and female Australian scientists, their areas of research, and the different career paths that they may have taken.
For the first time in many years, the Section held an extra event. We were delighted that Dr Adam Cawley was able to present a talk on “Catching the Cheats – The Chemistry Behind Sports Drugs Testing”. There was a good turn out for Adam’s seminar, including many non-chemistry academic staff, together with students, technical staff, and members from industry. Afterwards we held a Section dinner, which was again enjoyed by a range of people from different areas of chemistry.

The Section is looking forward to working more closely with the Branch to promote the RACI at the HSC Chemistry Days, especially to build links with the local high school teachers. This is important to enable activities such as the Nyholm Lecture and titration competition to be offered in our region. We are also looking forward to the Branch helping us find speakers so we can offer a couple of Speaker/Dinner functions each year.

Paul Prenzler
Chair

Western Sydney

Our meetings over this past year have included talks by Dr David Lamb (Oil, Alternative Fuels and Atmospheric Emissions), Professor Anatoly Rosenfeld (Modern Radiation Therapy for Cancer Treatment), Professor Thomas Maschmeyer (Sustainability – Some Chemical Solutions for a Tricky Problem) and Professor Brian Gulson (The Fate of Nanoparticles on the Skin).

The choice of a winner of the Western Sydney Section Honours Prize has been even more difficult this year with the submission of 8 excellent theses. Andrew McLeod from the University of Sydney was selected as the winner with James Hennell and Anwen Krause-Heuer, both from the University of Western Sydney, gaining high commendations for their work. The presentation of their awards will occur at our October meeting. Drs Gary Bowman and Deidre Tronson, ably assisted by Dr Leonid Tarasoff, have done a sterling job in their assessment and Deidre’s hard work in publicising the award has obviously had a significant impact on the larger number of applications received.

I would particularly like to than our Treasurer, Gary Bowman, and the members of our organising committee for their ideas and enthusiasm, and for their assistance in organising individual meetings.

Robyn Crumbie
Chair
Special Interest Groups

In addition, the Branch overseeing the following specialist interest groups:

- Analytical Chemistry
- Chemical Education
- Consultants & Contractors
- Industrial Chemistry
- Natural Products
- Organic Chemistry
- Pharmaceutical Science
- Polymers
- Young Chemists

Chemical Education

Elected Office Bearers
Chairperson: Mr Alasdair Hey
Secretary: Ms Margaret Lindsay
Treasurer: Ms Jenelle Seaman

The NSW Chemical Education Group has had another strong year. Our thanks go to the numerous Guest Speakers who have given of their time to speak at meetings throughout the year.

Group Activities

Chem. Wear and Collectibles

Sale of Group merchandise continues to be strong with colour advertisements sent to schools with Schools Titration Competition invitations. The Titration Competition website has links to encourage merchandise sales. Sales at HSC Chemistry Marking were particularly strong. The Group has continued the production of silk ties, scarves, tea-towels and mugs for the promotion of chemistry learning.

NSW Schools Titration Competition

The 2008 Schools Titration Competition was held on 20 June & 21 June. Before the close of entry this year, all Sydney venues were completely booked out. Thankfully a new venue, St George Girls’ High School, Kogarah, was able to come on board. Thanks also go to The University of Western Sydney Campbelltown Campus, which opened another laboratory to help cater for the greater influx of students. Another new Sydney venue will be sought in 2009. A record 307 teams of three were entered from Schools across NSW.
2008 NSW Schools results: 1st Place-Girraween High School, 2nd Place-Coffs Harbour High School, 3rd Place- Rosebank College. Congratulations to these winners. The 2008 National Competition will be held in September.

After many years of dedicated service, Mr Charles Johns, the venue coordinator from Broken Hill announced his retirement this year. He consistently engaged the two regional high schools (Willyama and Broken Hill) in fierce titremetric battle for over two decades. Our sincere thanks to him. Sadly, a new coordinator for the region has not been forthcoming.

At the time of writing the 2007 report, the years results from across the State were unavailable, so I present them here:

2008 Schools results: In the NSW Schools Competition: 1st Place-Blue Mountains Grammar School, 2nd Place-Merewether High School 3rd Place- St Vincent's College. In the National Competition: NSW 1st Place- Trinity Catholic College. Winner of the de Miklouho-Maclay Prize: Jaismine Kaur of Girraween High School. Congratulations to these winners.

### Chemical Safety In-services

Margaret Lindsay and Georgia Deretic have continued their series of in-service courses for training secondary school staff in chemical safety and storage regulations. These courses continue to generate large interest in the secondary education sector, particularly among laboratory technicians.

### NSW Institute of Teachers Liaison

Headed by Margaret Lindsay, the group has sought accreditation of the NSW Institute of Teachers. The goal is that Group run activities, such as speaker meetings and in-service courses, contribute to the mandatory training of new teachers. Clarification of this process is underway.

### Response to Science & Technology K-6 Draft Syllabus

The Group took an active position in the assessment of the proposed Science and Technology Syllabus for NSW Kindergarten to Year 6 students. The Group is very keen to ensure that students receive adequate instruction in elementary Chemistry principles and applications in their formative years.

Alasdair Hey
Chair
Industrial Chemistry

The following executive committee was elected at the AGM held on 13th September 2007:

Chairperson  Dr Gary Bowman (Reckitt Benckiser)
Secretary    Ms Christine Wasiowycz (Sumitomo Chemical)
Treasurer    Dr Andrew Jones (Griffith Hack)

The focus of the NSW Industrial Chemistry Group (ICG) in 2008 has been the revival of the RACI Industrial Chemistry Division. As a result of this, RACI members have been surveyed nationally by email to garner interest and the response has been very positive. An annual general meeting for the Division will be held at Chemeca in Newcastle on 30 September 2008. The NSW ICG executive will oversee the running of this AGM and ensure that the newly elected Division will work cooperatively with the NSW ICG into the future. In addition, the NSW ICG has arranged promotions for the RACI at the conference through a sponsor’s booth and a networking dinner function. Collectively these activities will increase the profile of the RACI amongst the industrial chemistry and chemical engineering communities that form the framework of Chemeca.

The 12th annual golf day was held on Friday 26th October 2007 at Liverpool Golf Club. The 2007 event was again well supported by sponsors. The generosity from a range of companies was outstanding, leading to an extremely successful and enjoyable day for all, especially inside the clubhouse! Unfortunately, the day has been hampered by bad weather in recent years and this event was no exception with a severe thunderstorm causing the entire field to leave the course after 9 holes. Thankfully, this allowed for an excellent networking opportunity. Our major backers, MGK Asia-Pacific, Techstaff and Griffith-Hack are thanked for their wonderful support of the event, drinks, dinner and raffle prizes.

The group has maintained its support of students studying subjects related to industrial chemistry at University. The prize winner for 2008 was Bradley Green who achieved the highest mark in the subject Environmental Chemistry at UTS.

Gary Bowman
Chair
Pharmaceutical Science

The Pharmaceutical Science Group held the following meetings: Determination of Chemical Impurities in APIs and Dosage Forms was held on Wed 25th July 2007, Annual Re-union Dinner (31 attendees) on Wed 14th November 2007, and NIR Industry Updater (120 attendees) on Wed 14th May 2008. Each of the meetings was successful with its specific objective of serving the pharmaceutical industry achieved.

Kim Chan
Chair

Polymers

Minutes of the NSW Polymers Group AGM 15th October 2008

1) Attendees: Brian Hawkett, Gary Dennis, Will Horton, David Sangster, Lachlan Yee. No Apologies were received

2) It was moved by Brian Hawkett and seconded by David Sangster that the minutes for the previous AGM be taken as read; motion carried.

3) A review of activities of the previous year was presented to the meeting by the Chairman (summary follows).

On the 19th November 2007 the Group hosted the 2007 Solomon Lecture. The lecture was delivered by Professor Mitsuo Sawamoto, Department of Polymer Chemistry, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University, Katsura, Nishikyo-ku, Kyoto 615-8510, Japan. Professor Sawamoto delivered a very interesting lecture on "Metal-Catalyzed Living Radical Polymerization: Discovery, Fundamentals, Catalysts, Precision Polymer Synthesis and the Future". Prior to the lecture the group provided drinks and nibbles and after the lecture we enjoyed a very pleasant dinner with Professor Sawamoto at the Chedi Thai restaurant in King Street.

4) As our finances are now centrally controlled the Chairman also presented the very healthy financial position of the group, as reported by the Polymer Division Treasurer:

RACI NSW Polymer Group Budget Report 2007/2008

Balance as at 01/01/2007: $2476.30
Includes $210.72 from 1/3 Connect 2005 Allocation
Income: 1/3 of 29 APS Profit: $17,565.00
Expenditure:
2007 Solomon Lecture (05/02/08): -$560.00
Current Balance: $19,248.72

Moved Lachlan Yea, seconded Will Horton that the financial report be accepted; motion carried.

5) Election of office bearers for 2007/2008

The following office bearers were elected for next year:
Chairman  Lachlan Yee
Secretary  Brian Hawkett
Treasurer  Will Horton
Committee  Gary Dennis

As there were no additional nominations it was moved by David Sangster, seconded Gary Dennis that the committee be considered elected; motion carried.

6) Forthcoming events
Discussion of forthcoming events cantered around running a student presentation evening with a prize of a return air ticket to a conference in either Australia or New Zealand for the best talk.

7) There being no further business the AGM was closed and the attendees adjourned to the Chedi Thai restaurant on King Street for further discussions over an excellent meal.

Brian Hawkett  
(Outgoing Chair, new Secretary)

Young Chemists

The Young Chemists did have a number meetings and gatherings throughout 07/08.

April meeting

The meeting covered much of the planning and brainstorming for many of the activities we participated in this year. At the conclusion of the meeting we attended the Presentation Current Issues Relating to Sports Drug Testing (hosted by ANZFSS). The evening concluded with us going to dinner at a local restaurant – The Spicy Sichuan

Celebration of the Year in Industry Program

Our big event for the year was our Celebration of the Year in Industry Program Dinner that took place During Chemistry Week.

Young Chemists took an active role also for the Science Week 2008 Events – we even had a position on the NSW Planning Committee.

Edwina Hine  
Hon Treasurer

Conclusion

Our thanks and appreciation must be conveyed to all the members of the Branch Committee, its various sub-committees and the Section and Group committees for their loyal and active support during 2007/2008.
NSW Branch Committee 2007 – 2008

President: Dr Mary Collins
President-Elect: Mr. Adam Cawley
Past President: Dr Attila Tottszer
Honorary Secretary: Mr. Adam Cawley
Honorary Treasurer: Dr Ian Jamie

Elected Committee Members:

Prof David Black
Mr. David Edmonds
Dr Jenny Jones
Dr Andrew McDonagh
Mrs Maree Stuart

Mr. John Eames
Dr Neil Galbraith
A/Prof. Roger Read
Dr Paul Pui
Mr. Robert Ryan

NSW Branch Sub-Committees 2007 – 2008

Standing Applications
Assoc Prof Peter Southwell-Keely (Convener),
Dr Harry Goodwin, Edwina Hine,

Fellowship
Dr Clarrie Ng (Convener)
Mrs Maree Stuart, Dr Paul Pui
**NSW Branch Sections 2007 – 2008**

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**NSW Branch Groups 2007 - 2008**

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<td>Denis Moore</td>
<td>Peter Kissane/ David Edmonds</td>
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<td>Young Chemists’</td>
<td>Joseph Bevitt</td>
<td>Lance Booker</td>
<td>Edwina Hine</td>
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**Appendix: Finances**

**Sections and Groups**

**Statement of Income and Expenditure 2007 – 2008**

The following provides a summary of income, expenditure and financial standing of each of the Sections and Groups of the NSW Branch. The figures have been taken from the individual financial reports, and are for the year ended 30.06.07.