



Christmas Newsletter



Academy of Dentistry International Australasian Section

DECEMBER 2007



WORLD
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A message at Christmas from the Regent



I wonder how familiar many of you are with the African nation of Togo? I've never been there, I am unable to locate it accurately on a globe, and in fact until last week I had never met anybody from Togo. The FDI sponsors a small number of delegates from under-developed countries to their Annual World Dental Congress, this year held in Dubai, and I spoke with the delegate from Togo during the course of a committee meeting in which I was involved. She told us that her country of nearly 6 million people enjoyed the services of 32 dentists, nearly all of them living in the capital city (Lome - I had to google it).

I guess it is common practice at this time of year to write (or email these days) to friends and loved ones, bringing them up-to-date with the goings on in our lives. As I gather my thoughts to meet our Editors deadline, back home in New Zealand, I look back

on an ADI year filled with events and accomplishments. We held a wonderful convocation in March, at which 29 worthy new Fellows were inducted. We were so proud of Paul Kotala's recognition by the Academy, and of course the indefatigable Reg Hession continues his sterling work on behalf of us all, and it is good to see Reg is now the President-elect of the ADI.

Our new Fellows Malcolm Deall and John Arvier continues their long-running projects, Malcolm in Nepal and John Arvier in Cambodia along with Callum Durwood Also Simon Shanahan in India are among the many Fellows who give of their time and expertise so generously.

I mentioned Togo at the outset because, as I started to list all of the many ventures with which ADI Fellows are involved, it struck me first, how lucky we are to be in the position to be able to afford to lift our heads above the day-to-day struggle it must be for

those 32 colleagues of ours in Togo, and give of our time to others. It struck me second that being an ADI Fellow is not just about recognition from ones peers, but that the true meaning of the word 'Fellow' lies in altruism, and the service or contribution one gives to ones community, no matter how small or widespread, in order to improve that community.

So I want to take the opportunity to thank you all for the contribution you make to your chosen communities, be they close to home or in places few of us will ever see in person. Your altruism not only demonstrates that you are Fellows in more than name, it brings credit to your profession.

I also want to wish you a joyous Christmas, and I hope that 2008 finds you and your loved ones safe, healthy and ready to tackle another busy year.

Mark Goodhew



News from across the field

Nambak Dental Clinic report from Stavros Zervas

Assisting Paul Kotala in Laos is Stavros Zervas who is master technician working with Henry Schein Halas, which as you all know is a part sponsor of this newsletter and a sponsor of the Laos project through 'Schein Cares' aid programme. Stavros has prepared the following report.

The dental clinic project at the north eastern Laotian regional centre of Nambak now has a newly constructed building with a definitive area for a permanent dental technical laboratory. The building originates from the *Tooth Aid* charitable project designed by Paul Kotala from Sydney who has pioneered dental services into this regional centre since 2003.

By discussion with Paul Kotala my employer, Henry Schein Halas, decided to assist the *Tooth Aid* project by sponsoring working visits and material support under the corporate banner of *Schein Cares*.

It has been a pleasure to accompany Paul Kotala on some of his annual visits, equipped with the necessary materials and equipment needed for the production of dental prosthetic appliances. My third visit coincided with the furnishing of the new dental laboratory area with lab benches, storage cabinets and associated processing equipment to allow the centre to have a permanent laboratory technician at its disposal.

Henry Schein Halas donated the money to build the benches for the laboratory area using the resource of local builders. Our photographs are not able to reproduce the beauty of the local woods, harvested from the local native forests. Such aspects interest me as dental technicians are also artisans but of a different type. I certainly would not mind having such furniture in my dental art studio.

For every one of my visits Paul Kotala selected and prepared approx 20 patients which required in most cases full upper and lower dentures. There are always a few cases with partial dentures only. In many cases, we see in this isolated geographic region, black teeth which are due to chewing of local fruits/nuts/leaves.

We never see such cases in Australia today. The age group of patients varies from the early 20's to the seniors of 70 plus years, rarely males but mostly females who represent the demography of this area. This reflects in this border area to Vietnam the war period of the 60's and early 70's. The

local way of saying thank you for our finished work is and surprises me/us every time as locals present us with gifts available and affordable to them, like fruits, chili pepper, nuts, etc all things that I/we cannot take with us back to our families in Australia so we pass same on to the families of our local assisting hands and the visitors to the nearby hospital and/or the patients which are always from outlying areas many hours by way of walking to Nambak.

This third visit made me realize that this Nambak project is making an enormous social impact into this region. The continuous availability of dental services represents true progress with positive ramifications for improved living conditions.

It is personally very satisfying to be an active part in such developments and I would like to thank Henry Schein Halas and their *Schein Cares* sponsorship and Paul Kotala for this unique opportunity to support his project.



It is a great joy to all of us to read that Paul Kotala received the Humanitarian Award of the ADI. This was presented to Paul by Dr Frank Fauce, outgoing President of ADI at the recent ADI Convocation held in San Francisco on 23 September 2007. The citation prepared by the President Elect of ADI, Dr Reg Hession AM reads as follows:

Paul Kotala is a graduate in both science and dental surgery from the University of Sydney. His early years following graduation were spent in his own very successful private dental practice.

Throughout this time, his work within the Australian Dental association, caused him to be elected to high office. This included that of Treasurer of the New South Wales Branch and membership of the organising committee of the Annual World Dental Congress of the Federation Dentaire Internationale, held in Sydney, Australia, in the year 2003.

Following a period of travel throughout the world, particularly in South East Asia, he recognised the lack of opportunity for the peoples who live therein, to maintain good health. In particular,

the paucity of facilities and infrastructure available to populations at large was clearly evident.

Upon reflection, he decided to find a way to deal with the problem. A first step was to locate a position in dentistry where he could work intermittently, this allowing periods for travel to areas of need. The next step was to create a facility whereby his endeavours could work under the umbrella of a charity. The last step towards success was for him to convince others to provide support, for him to take dentistry to the people where the need appeared to be greatest, Laos.

Since his humble beginnings as an itinerant dentist travelling throughout the province of Nambak, Laos, he has provided dental services to the local people. Until recently, this has always been in the open, either adjacent to the Nambak Hospital, or following rudimentary travel by vehicle or foot, to outlying villages, using portable equipment.

Following a grant from the academy, he has succeeded to 'move mountains' within the bureaucracy of a communist country, in converting a ruined building adjacent to the Nambak Hospital, to a dental clinic, therefore allowing for treatment utilising non-portable dental equipment. A plaque installed within, recognises the role of the academy and its development.

Mr President, it is an honour and privilege for me to present to you Dr Paul Kotala, for the receipt of the 2007 Academy of Dentistry International Humanitarian Award.



The new dental laboratory at Nambak Dental Clinic

News

from across the Tasman

Kia Ora!



Our Regent, Mark Goodhew returned from the Dubai FDI conference last week with the good news that David Crum had been elected to the FDI Education Committee chairmans role. This group organizes speakers for FDI conferences, as well as arranging some continuing education for dentists in under-developed countries. Congratulations David.

Unfortunately Brent Stanley was not successful in being elected to the President-elect position of FDI, and again unfortunately this brings his involvement in FDI to a close. Brent he has been involved for a long time, and has contributed a lot of time and energy to FDI.

Other news from the FDI meeting - John Bell and Mark Goodhew attended the Dubai meeting as NZDA delegates and Andrew Cautley was a speaker at the congress

Tony Waghorn has retired from practise in New Plymouth and was farewelled at a function last month and we wish him all the best for his retirement.

Finally we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe, successful and enjoyable New Year.

Karl Lyons
Our NZ Correspondent

From the News

The year 2007 has almost been and gone, and no doubt much has happened to us both in our private and professional lives.

The ADI continues to move forward in leaps and bounds not only here in Australasia but overseas as well. As you have read in the Regent's comments and in the last newsletter The ADI (Australasian Section) enjoyed a very successful Convocation in Sydney with a generous intake of new Fellows. More recently in Dubai 25 new Fellows were inducted into the Academy. Most of these were from the Middle East and the former Eastern Bloc countries, as well as two from Switzerland and one from England. It will not be long before non Fellow dentists of distinction from countries within Northern Europe and the Nordic countries will be embraced into the wider Fellowship of the ADI when the establishment of the British Isles and Nordic sections is finalized. Ultimately the whole of Europe will be encompassed, resulting in five new sections, rather than one large and relatively inert section which has hitherto been the case.

We live in changing and exciting times. Let us also move with them.

I hope you all have a restful break over the festive season and a wonderful Christmastide.

Fleet Street

Editor



Forthcoming Events



**For more details see ADI website
www.adint.org**

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**ADI CONVOCATION CANADA SECTION

Canadian Dental Association and Alberta Dental Association

April 10, 2008 at 6.15pm

**ADI USA SECTION CONVOCATION (all dates tentative)

October 15, 2008 - San Antonio, Texas

September 30, 2009 - Honolulu, Hawaii

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**ADI (AUSTRALASIAN SECTION) CONVOCATION AND DINNER

33rd Australian Dental Congress

March 12-15, 2009

Perth, Western Australia

Poets' Corner



*Whence is the goodly fragrance flowing,
Stealing our senses all away,
never the like did come a-blowing,
Shepherds, in flow'ry fields of May,
Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing,
Stealing our senses all away.*

*Bethlehem! there in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer haste away,
Run ye with eager footsteps vieing!
Worship the Saviour born today.
Bethlehem! there in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer haste away.*



*Dubai where the
Federation Dentaire
International (World
Dental Congress) was
held October 24-27, 2007*

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It would be appreciated if letters, articles, photos etc are sent in high resolution, electronic format or TIFF (cmyk) where possible. We look forward to hearing from you.

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