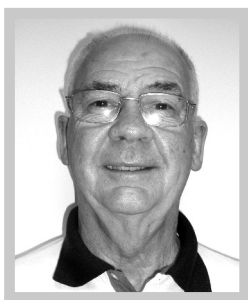


From the President



One of the most important activities of the RACI is to support conferences and workshops. Most of our Divisions plan to arrange a 2-4-day meeting every year and there are many shorter seminars and discussions associated with Branch activities. Every five years there is a large National Convention -

CONNECT - that includes activities relevant to all Divisions. For many years, there has been a ruling that Divisions do not arrange a conference within six months either side of a CONNECT gathering. The next CONNECT is planned for 4-8 July 2010 and arrangements for the program are well down the track.

The meeting will be at the new Melbourne Convention Centre and will be held jointly with the IUPAC International Conference on Pesticide Chemistry. There will be a common program for the meeting and a single registration fee. People will be free to attend any section of the meeting so we can expect a great scientific offering. There is a common steering committee to ensure that the Congress runs efficiently, that conference facilities are properly scheduled, registration fees handled, and so on. The CONNECT section of the meeting is developing a program under the guidance of Ken Ghiggino from the University of Melbourne, and the pesticide program is being developed under the leadership of Greg Simpson from CSIRO. Ken and his team have determined that the CONNECT section will be arranged around six interdisciplinary themes. They are Chemical Education and Community; Energy and Green Chemistry; Chemistry, Health and Wellbeing; Materials - from Nano to Macro; Measurement and Environmental Sustainability; and New Technologies and Industry. On the IUPAC side, the themes are Pest Management and Crop Protection; Formulation and Delivery; Environmental Fate and Safety; Regulatory and Residue; and Emerging Issues. Together, these themes cover just about every area in which chemistry is important. I suggest you mark off these dates now and get in the mood for a great intellectual feast! The organisers are expecting more than 1500 attendees with as many as a third travelling from overseas, so look out for the call for registrations and get in early.

Although a large Congress of this type is a great offering, Divisions also strongly support their more focused meetings. At the November Assembly meeting, there was a vigorous discussion of the purpose and frequency of the CONNECT series

and the topic is also on the agenda for the May Assembly. One school of thought is advocating that the meetings should be held more frequently, a second that they may not even be necessary, and yet another that the National Convention should be moved around to avoid clashes with major international meetings such as Pacificchem. To add to the confusion, the Pacificchem group is considering moving from its five-year timetable to a four-year model. My guess is that this type of discussion will continue for so long as the RACI exists. With this in mind, I will leave you with a question: How can the Australian Institute of Physics, with about a fifth the number of members as the RACI, hold a meeting every two years that attracts two or three times as many people as the CONNECT does every five years? If you have any thoughts on this issue, feel free to send an email to me or any other member of the Board.

Bob Watts FRACI CChem <rowatts@bigpond.net.au>

CONTRIBUTOR DEADLINES

Your prompt submissions are greatly appreciated and will assist the timely production of *Chemistry in Australia*.

August issue	Wednesday 10 June
September issue	Wednesday 8 July
October issue	Wednesday 5 August

RACI Centenary History

The History & Archives Group invites members to contribute/loan/donate RACI historical material in the form of documents, monographs, photographs, accounts of events/meetings, letters, reminiscences and other suitable material to compile the centennial history of the RACI.

All material should be sent to the National Office marked 'RACI Centenary History' 21 Vale Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051.