



## President's news

Last October we held a facilitated workshop to recommend a strategic plan for the RACI, covering the next 3–5 years. Among the 34 contributors were several non-members as well as people drawn from all areas represented in the RACI, Branches and Divisions, and covering all age groups. The workshop recommended a purpose statement for the RACI, a comprehensive set of goals for the next 3 years, and resources needed to reach these goals.

The purpose statement covered a requirement for the RACI to be seen as the first port of call for comment on chemistry-related matters, a recommendation on the need for advocacy, and a demand that the RACI properly support professional development of its members at all levels.

The agreed goals, to be implemented by the end of 2012, included initiatives designed to meet these goals. They included developing a comprehensive portfolio of easily accessible professional development programs covering all professional levels. The programs are intended to include individual accreditation. Related to these courses will be a set of programs that encourage career development, including employment opportunities, advice including mentoring for younger scientists, job exchanges and work placements. There are also goals associated with meeting and defining industry needs. Associated with this goal is an intention to more

closely align industry and academia to influence the supply of properly qualified graduates to the workforce. Leading into this set of goals is another that requires the RACI to become more strongly involved with influencing and aiding the development of chemistry and chemistry-related areas at the high school level of education. We look forward to the day where RACI accreditation of degree courses is seen as the gold standard for chemistry courses. To further these goals, another area identified for development is a fully networked chemistry community. All these goals, are directed to a further goal, of expanding RACI membership so that it becomes a fully engaged body with a strong sense of purpose.

The actions and resources required to reach these goals include new appointments such as a Professional Development Officer and Education Officer, a person active in public relations and outreach, and a web master for the networked community development. New appointments will be done in such a way that existing staff members including Branch Coordinators will be fully involved.

At the November Board meeting, the workshop report was discussed in detail and all its recommendations accepted. An action plan, proposed by President-Elect David Wood, was agreed, and the first steps were taken towards budgeting for the new appointments. The November Assembly endorsed the Board's action plan. We circulated the full workshop report to all members by electronic mail in early November. The report and the action plan are available on the member-only website and we will post periodic updates.

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



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