RACI E-News August 2020

Dear Members,

I like to begin this report by thanking many members who have promptly renewed their RACI memberships in the last few weeks. Thank you for your continued strong support for RACI! If you have experienced a small hiccup in membership renewal arising from teething problems of the newly launched website, please do not hesitate to contact our Branch Coordinator, Claire, who is always more than happy to give you a hand. Please note her office hours (Tuesdays to Thursdays) at the Branch Office.

I also like to welcome all new members to the RACI family! I reached out to some of them a few weeks ago and I am delighted that many responded immediately with enthusiasm. Owing to limited space in this Newsletter, we are only able to feature a number of them at a time, following their recent interviews, on page 3-5. We will continue to introduce other new members in upcoming Newsletters. All members will share the view that we will be able to gain the most out of memberships by being involved. In this respect, one of the frequent questions by new members is invariably who they should get in touch with to learn about ways they can make contributions to a group of most interest to them. I’m sure office bearers of all groups will welcome these new members with an open arm (or an elbow knock in the modern way!).

Speaking of being involved, some may be interested in becoming a Branch Committee member. The annual general meeting of the Branch Committee has now been scheduled to take place via Zoom on 15th October this year. Apart from the President, President-Elect and the Immediate Past President, all other positions (Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and Committee Members) in the Branch Committee will be declared vacant. By following instructions outlined on page 7 of this Newsletter, please inform Claire if you are interested in picking up a particular role in the Branch Committee. Elections will then be conducted during the annual general meeting.

While high school students have already resumed face-to-face learning, many university students are just starting to return to their institutions for their second half-year study. In general, university lectures are still being conducted online but laboratory sessions and other small group learning activities will resume to be face-to-face with strict social distancing rules. It is certainly a very different way of learning (and teaching) at the moment. To all university students, you went through a tough time in first half-year, and you just need to hang in there a little longer to cope with your second half-year study. Remember that tough times will not last, but tough people will! One of our partner associations, The Teachers’ Guild of New South Wales, is
hosting an event called “How Has Covid-19 Changed Learning?” on 17th November. Please see page 7 for further information and registration. Meanwhile, The Teachers’ Guild of New South Wales is also hosting a free webinar, “What is ‘STEM? (And why is it so important?)” on 8th September. Further details on this event are provided on page 8.

With a bit of luck, we will begin delivering the September Newsletter to all members in a slightly different, more user-friendly manner. I am going to keep you in suspense for a few weeks so that you will be pleasantly surprised when you see the new format in the next Newsletter. Meanwhile, remember to wash your hands, maintain social distancing and stay safe!

Danny Wong
RACI NSW Branch President

“Nurture the passion, discover the possibilities”

The next Branch Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 25 Aug at 5.30 pm, via Zoom

From top left: Danny Wong, Claire Jung (Branch Coordinator), Dave Sammut, David Edmonds, Matthew Wilkinson, Roger Read, Colin Maxwell, Rama Nimmagadda, Scott Colbourne, David Springer, Kris Mobberley, Nigel Lengkeek, Maree Stuart, Elysha Taylor, Stephen George-Williams, Lachlan Yee, Sinead Keaveney, Lidia Matesic during the 21st July Branch Committee Meeting via Zoom.
Welcome New Members Update- July 2020

We would like to welcome all new NSW members who joined the RACI in June 2020. As a professional membership organisation, we provide networking and special interest events during the year. Details of all Branch events can be found on the website: https://www.raci.org.au/Web/About-Us/Branches/NWB_branch.aspx?Code=NSB

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<td>Dr Matthew James Griffith</td>
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60 seconds with new RACI members-

Parijat Ray, Ph.D.

Why did you decide to join RACI?: I am aware of RACI since I commenced a Ph.D. in Australia and I was advised to join RACI by my Ph.D. supervisors, Prof. George Simon and A/Prof. Kei Saito from Monash University. Both of them are deeply engaged with RACI. I do feel RACI is the strongest platform in Australia to connect all chemists and it has got international recognition as well. I have participated in the RACI congress held in Melbourne back in 2018 and APS (polymer) back in 2017. I joined this group to expand my connections in Australia for collaboration in polymer chemistry/polymer related research in both academia and industry sectors. Being an early-stage researcher, I want to expand my network for future job opportunities as well.

What is your current occupation?: I am a Senior Scientific Officer, Polymer Chemistry at the University of Technology, Sydney where I do industrial researches on Bioplastics, fibres and coatings using Australian biomass.

What made you get into chemistry?: I have 11 years of academic background in Chemistry and Polymer including B.Sc (Chem), B.Tech, and M.Tech (Polymer) and Ph.D. (Polymer). Chemistry is my bread and butter and Polymer is my life partner. I was moved by organic chemistry during my high school and opted to take chemistry as a major. I feel deeply in love with organic chemistry during my first bachelor degree program. I was then advised by a professor to go for a second bachelor degree in Polymer because he believed that polymer science is the future for both academia and industry. I
choose polymer over doing masters in chemistry and chemical engineering and I have never looked back.

**Do you use chemistry in your everyday life? If so, how?:** My day starts and ends with chemistry, mainly polymer chemistry. I am developing 100% biodegradable plastics from Australian biomass, which involve extractions, purifications, characterisation, and modifications of bio-macromolecules and their processing into plastics, fibres for various kinds of applications. I love cooking a lot, which I believe is organic synthesis using cooking utensils as reaction vessels. The taste, the smell, the colour, and the smile on people’s face are the ways of characterising your synthesis.

**Do you have a favourite chemical reaction?:** I love any kind of polymerisation reactions but I mostly like free radical polymerisation and polycondensation reactions because they are used in making most of the important polymers.

**What do you like to do outside of chemistry?:** I do like playing and watching cricket, cooking and reading storybooks.

**How can the RACI help you in your current role?:** Being an early-stage researcher, I want to expand my network in Australia for future collaborations in polymer/polymer products related field/research. I will like to participate in various seminars and conferences in Australia and hope to be groomed by experienced researchers from both academia and industry to help shape my career in Australia.

**Sarah Adamson (Student Member)**

**How did you learn about RACI?** I was researching online for Chemistry depth studies and stumbled across the website.

**Why did you decide to join RACI?** I wanted to deepen the connection with what my students are learning in Chemistry and what is happening in the industry currently. I am also passionate about developing enterprise skills with my students and felt RACI was a great connection to industry for them.

**What degree program are you studying?** Bachelor of Secondary Teaching (Science)(Honours)

**What made you get into chemistry?** I have loved Chemistry since I was at school, my Chemistry teacher was so passionate about science that it was infectious! After a career in finance I decided to pursue my love of science and made the career change to teaching.

**Do you use chemistry in your everyday life? If so, how?** Teaching secondary chemistry students means I am always looking for connections from the real world to our classroom. We are currently looking at rates of reactions and catalysts, so we will be looking into industry to learn how they use knowledge of chemistry in their processes.

**Do you have a favourite reagent or a reaction?** I really love the ‘Golden Rain’ experiment where we look at solutes, solutions and precipitates. It is the reaction between Potassium Iodide and Lead Nitrate. The students find it engaging and I always get a buzz demonstrating it!

**What do you like to do outside of chemistry?** I’m an avid reader, currently enjoying dystopian fiction such as the ‘Gone’ series by Michael Grant. I also enjoy bike riding and sewing.
How can the RACI help you in your current role? During my final internship, and subsequent career as a Science teacher, I am hoping RACI will help me stay connected with chemistry outside of the classroom and offer connections to the real world for my students.

Kevin Ghavalas (Student Member)

How did you learn about RACI? I first learnt about the RACI in school (2018) when doing research for an assignment in which I needed to describe future careers I would like to have. When looking up jobs in chemistry, I found the RACI careers link. From there I started exploring the site to see what the RACI was.

Why did you decide to join RACI? I decided to join the RACI when one of my lecturers at Charles Sturt University told me it would be greatly beneficial to my professional development. He recommended joining the RACI as it would allow me to network with professionals within chemistry and to start attending seminars to develop my knowledge of chemistry.

What degree program are you studying? I am studying the Bachelor of Science at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga campus. I am aiming to graduate with a major in Analytical Chemistry and a double minor in Mathematics and Microbiology.

What made you get into chemistry? My love of chemistry developed from watching NCIS as a child. The way in which they characterised the forensic officer and made chemistry seem so exciting is where my interest was first piqued. My enjoyment of chemistry has only developed as I have learnt more about it, and how complex a subject it is. I have always enjoyed a challenge, and understanding chemistry is a fantastic challenge.

Do you use chemistry in your everyday life? If so, how? I do use chemistry in my everyday life. Mainly I use it at my job in hospitality. As one of the cooking staff, I am also responsible for cleaning. Due to the nature of cooking meat and using fryers, this means plenty of oil and fats need to be cleaned. So instead of just scrubbing ineffectually, I use my knowledge of surfactants to make it easier to clean the surfaces at work.

Do you have a favourite reagent or a reaction? My favourite reaction so far is the synthesis of a citric acid: glucose NaDES. I saw this reaction, and performed it, during my HSC in 2019 as part of a research paper done for the Science Extension subject. The combination of aqueous citric acid and aqueous glucose to form a natural solvent was a very interesting process to undertake. The fact that two non-solvents could combine to produce a fairly effective natural solvent really intrigued me and the reaction has stuck in my mind since doing it.

What do you like to do outside of chemistry? Outside of chemistry, I love mathematics. I find it is a very hard subject and succeeding in it is very gratifying. Outside of my studies, I split my time between playing online video games with my friends, mainly and MMORPG called Guild Wars 2, and writing content for as well as running a game of Dungeons and Dragons. When it is not as cold outside, I enjoy swimming and during the winter season do some basic weightlifting for exercise.

How can the RACI help you in your current role? As a student, the RACI can help me gain chemical research journals and templates for future endeavours. As a member, I will also be able to begin networking to be able to find more job opportunities when I graduate. An introduction to the professional chemistry sector will also prepare me for what working in the field will be like, from attending seminars to working with multiple sub-disciplines.
Calendar of Events 2020

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Please also check out our virtual events of other states at:

Limited RACI Member Offer

Free online access to Chemistry World magazine until 31 Dec 2020 thanks to the Royal Society of Chemistry. Click here to register your free account.

https://www.chemistryworld.com/my-account/commonwealth-chemistry

It's time to renew your membership.

Take advantage of the new monthly membership instalment plan with a 10% introductory discount offer.

With the launch of your new website, we're pleased to offer a new monthly instalment RACI membership payment option with a 10% introductory discount. You can now choose to either pay your annual membership monthly or in full. Log in to the new member section of the website to take advantage of this offer.

https://www.raci.org.au/
NSW BRANCH COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS 2020/2021

We are now seeking nominations from RACI members for election to the NSW Branch committee for the 2020/2021 year, to serve until the AGM in 2021.

There are a number of office-bearing positions: Honorary Secretary; Honorary Treasurer; in addition to a number of positions for Committee members.

If you are interested in standing for any of these positions, please complete the following form and send it to the NSW Branch Office. If you are unable to stand but know someone who would be interested in standing for one of these positions, please encourage them to submit their nomination.

Closing Date: 2pm, Thursday 14th October 2020.

For Nomination Form, please contact raci-nsw@raci.org.au

LOCATION:
Concord Golf Club
190 Majors Bay Road
Concord
COST:
$20
includes canapés and beverages

R.S.V.P:
Click [Here](#) to register online. By Monday 16th November 2020

Enquiries:
TGNSW Secretariat
02 9160 8199
enquiry by [email](mailto:)
Click [here](#) for flyer
RACI Mentoring Program 2021 – Applications Are Now Open


Applications are now open for the 2021 Mentoring Program which runs for the 2021 calendar year. Applications close 30 September 2020. The cost of the program is $150. For the first time, the program is available Australia-wide.

Want to benefit from the advice and guidance of a highly experienced mentor? Our Mentoring Program offers students and early career chemists a wonderful opportunity to gain unique knowledge and insights from industry experts, and develop their careers. The response from mentors and mentees is overwhelmingly positive to the program, with both benefiting from the experience. This is reflected in the fact that in the last few years, 80% of our students have found a job within one month of graduation.

The RACI has up to 60 spaces available nationally in the 2021 Mentoring Program for students and early career chemists keen to develop industrial / commercial, research or government careers (academic career paths are already very well catered to). The program involves:

- Regular guidance and support (every few weeks), typically via calls and occasional casual meetings.
- Support in developing professional networks, as example through facilitated networking (the mentor generally introducing the mentees to RACI contacts and helping involve the young scientists in conversations at RACI events).
- Career support & advice.
- Advice and support throughout the process of finding a job.

Mentoring is very much a two-way process. To be of full value, the mentee has to be an active participant. As guidance, the ideal mentee will:

- Be energetic and enthusiastic
- Be more oriented to an industrial / commercial or government career rather than academia
- Actively participate in the mentoring process (approx. 2-3 hours per month)
- Participate in occasional networking events

Eligibility Criteria
This program is open to all RACI members and student members. You can be a TAFE, undergrad or postgrad student, or an Early Career Chemist in the first 3 years of your career.

Further details regarding how the Mentoring Program can benefit Students, International Students and Early Career Chemists can be found on the RACI website at the link above.

Do you want to become a mentor?
Current RACI members can volunteer to participate as a mentor. If you would like to express your interest in becoming a mentor, please email the Mentoring Team: mentoring@raci.org.au.
RACI Career Development Program Webinar 6 – 2020 Choosing a Career Path
Thursday 13 August 2020, 6.30pm AEST

Register here:

Join the free Career Development Program (CDP) Choosing A Career Path webinar. Gaining a degree is the first step in launching a career. Where to next after your degree? In this free Careers Development Program webinar, our panel of professionals will share their own career paths, experiences, and what they have learned. In this webinar, a panel of professionals with chemistry-related degrees will discuss their own career paths, experiences, and what they have learned. This webinar is free, and everyone is welcome. Participants will have the opportunity to ask their own questions.

RACI Career Development Program
The Royal Australian Chemical Institute Career Development Program offers students and early career chemists a chance to get a head start in their careers in chemistry through a number of workshops, lectures and networking events throughout the year. Last month the RACI CDP hosted a What I Wish I Knew at the Start of My Career event. Featuring representatives from the sponsors, Leanne Harris from LCU, Mary Smal from Mary Smal Consultancy, David Springer, Commercial Manager for Envirolab Group and Dave Sammut from DCS Technical together with Brian Krieger of Workplace Health & Safety QLD, the questions covered many different topics including how to build a career during a recession, how to gain work experience and the importance of, and suggestions on how to, network. The panelists have had travelled varied career paths and this experience showed in their detailed answers and different perspectives. If you missed this webinar it will be available on the RACI website shortly.

Are You Hiring?
If you know of any suitable jobs for recent graduates or students please let us know as we have a wide pool of people that are keen to hear of all opportunities out there.
If you would like more information on the Mentoring Program, or to join the Career Development Program mailing list, please email mentoring@raci.org.au.
Work with best-in-class chemistry software

Live structures in Microsoft Office environment • Highly extendable/customizable solutions via scripting • Advanced chemical search and filtering • Virtual library enumeration • SAR-matrix generation • Physico-chemical properties • Naming and text conversion • R-group decomposition

For more details or to organize a demo, get in touch
Jason Kavanagh | jkavanagh@chemaxon.com | +61 449 952 794

ChemAxon

https://chemaxon.com/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=advert&utm_campaign=RACI
Indigenous Science Experience

What can Aboriginal astronomy tell us about the night sky? How is our native flora used as bush medicine? What can we learn about sustainable living from 60,000+ years of Indigenous culture? Find out the answers to these questions and more during the Indigenous Science Experience.

The Indigenous Science Experience will consist of a series of online workshops and presentations that will span across National Science Week (August 15-23, 2020). The sessions showcase a wide range of Indigenous and Western STEM presented by Indigenous secondary students, Elders and community members and STEM outreach providers from various organisations.

Please visit our website for session details and registrations: https://nisep.org.au/indigenous-science-experience
This is a FREE online event but seats are limited - RSVPs are essential. This is a live interactive event ONLY; it will not be distributed as a recording.

Since 2012, the Indigenous Science Experience at the Redfern Community Centre has been highlighting the value of traditional and contemporary Indigenous knowledge in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and the relevance of science to our everyday lives. In 2020, our new online format will continue this tradition.

This National Science Week event is organised by the National Indigenous Science Education Program (NISEP), Macquarie University, and Redfern Community Centre. It is made possible through the support of Inspiring Australia and grant funding from the Australian Government.
A/Prof Joanne Jamie
Bioorganic and Medicinal Chemist
Department of Molecular Sciences
Room 231 4 Wally's Walk
Macquarie University, NSW, 2109, Australia
T: +612 9850 8283 | F +612 9850 8313 | E: joanne.jamie@mq.edu.au

STANSW Chemistry Teachers Conference K-12:
Clean Green Science STANSW Chemistry and K-6 Teachers Conference
Commencing Monday 14 September 2020 across multiple days

✓ Check Event Brief attached

STANSW invite RACI members to share any great science lessons or teaching ideas with their colleagues for STANSW Chemistry Teachers Conference K-12. If you have tried a new idea and it worked really well to improve learning, please consider sharing and submit the idea via the link https://www.cognitoforms.com/STANSW/stanswcallforworkshoppresenters
Should you require further information please contact

Jane Powles
Executive Officer P: 02 9763 2751 E: EO@stansw.asn.au
2020 PHYSICS IN THE CLOUD – The Physics Free-For-All Variety Night!!

Tiny magnets, cell goop and the future of the Universe

Physics in the Pub has gone virtual! We've digitized and uploaded our scientists and they'll be streaming to you from the cloud, about the complex protein structures in our cells, how tiny magnets can cure cancer and, well, the philosophy of everything!

There'll be songs, poems and quizzes, so have your device ready. Grab yourself a drink and join us online, with host Dr Phil Dooley of Phil Up On Science.

- **Date:** Friday 21 August 2020
- **Time:** 6:00PM start

- **Cost:** FREE thanks to Australian Institute of Physics NSW Branch and Laboratories Credit Union (LCU)


**More Info:** [https://www.facebook.com/events/604994790085985/](https://www.facebook.com/events/604994790085985/)

Adventures Abroad in Science - Intrepid Canberra Women in Science discuss their Experiences & Research

Canberra produces some superb scientists who end up having amazing adventures in the science world. In these two online chats you will meet women who have gone to all kinds of places around the world.

Find out about their adventures, their discoveries and the funny tales that have happened on the road to their fascinating career.

**9 AM Saturday 15th August, featuring:**
- Gravitational wave theoretical physicist Professor Susan Scott, (LIGO, US)
- Antarctic Krill specialist Dr Nicole Hellessey (Atlanta, US)
- Fusion Energy researcher soon-to be Dr Adelle Wright (Princeton, US)

**6.30 PM Sunday 16th August, featuring:**

They'll be interviewed by the inimitable cast of Dramatis Scientificae – a science-theatre collaboration that combines humour, caricature and social satire with rigorous scientific methods. Think scientists explaining their work to a tradie, a coal magnate or a punk muso, and you’ll get the idea. Anything could happen – but you’re certain to find out something you didn't know before. You’ll get a chance to chat with the scientists too. And be ready for a quiz!

For more information please contact:
Dr Phil Dooley (philuponscience@gmail.com) or
Dr Frederick Osman (fosman@bu.edu)
Secretary - NSW Branch
Australian Institute of Physics

NSW AIP 2020 Annual Postgraduate Awards Day on Tuesday 10 November 2020 at the Concord Golf Club, 190 Majors Bay Road Concord (Entry via Flavelle Street).
Each University is invited to nominate one student to compete for the $500 prize and Postgraduate medal on that day.

The Royal Society of NSW will also award the Jak Kelly Scholarship prize of $500 as a separate award category for this event. These awards have been created to encourage excellence in postgraduate work, and all nominees who participate in the Postgraduate Awards Day will receive a special certificate recognising the nominee’s high standing.

Students are asked to make a 20-minute presentation on their postgraduate research in Physics, and the presentation will be judged on the criteria (1) content and scientific quality, (2) clarity and (3) presentation skills. Please refer to the attached judges’ criteria.

Event Schedule is included:
Student presentations at the Concord Golf Club, 190 Majors Bay Road Concord (Entry via Flavelle Street) – 11.00am to 1.00pm
Lunch - 1.00 to 2.00pm
Presentation of Awards and Prizes - 2.00 to 2.30pm
AIPNSW AGM - 2.30 to 3.00pm

This event is proudly sponsored by the Australian Institute of Physics, The Royal Australian Chemical Institute and The Royal Society of New South Wales. Your support of a student postgraduate nomination is very important by Friday 9th October 2020. Please NOTE: Please email the title and abstract of your nominated student presentation in the attached word document nomination form to Dr Frederick Osman by Friday 9th October 2020 on fosman@bu.edu

Dr Frederick Osman FAIP
Awards Convenor
Australian Institute of Physics New South Wales Branch
Ph: 0418 444 477
Royal Society of New South Wales
Science Week 2020

Join the Royal Society of NSW for two talks during Science Week 2020.

- **Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy AM FRSN**
  Royal Society of NSW and the University of Newcastle
  **The COVID Curve in Context: or Back to the Future—something old and something new**

  Professor Clancy’s talk will address two issues: (a) the pattern of health in Australia, and how COVID-19 fits this pattern, and what we can learn from past pandemics in Australia; and (b) why old people die and young people “don’t turn a hair”, and how we can make our airways young again. The talk will also consider why we don’t have a useful vaccine, and what we need to do, and can do, in the future to learn to live with COVID-19.

  **Date:** Tuesday, 18 August 2020, 6.00pm  
  **Venue:** Zoom webinar. Click here for [help in getting started with Zoom](#)  
  **Entry:** No charge  
  **Enquiries:** via email

- **Emeritus Professor Brynn Hibbert AM FRSN**
  Royal Society of NSW and UNSW Sydney
  **The Periodic Table: ‘. a medley of haphazard facts falling into line and order’ (C. P. Snow)**

  The ancients had isolated and named around thirteen substances, mostly metals, not necessarily realising they were unique, chemically-indivisible ‘elements’. With the discovery of Oganesson (118 Og) we have completed the seventh row of the modern periodic table. In between, the science of Chemistry has been built on the discovery and manipulation of more and more of the elements that make up our world.

  2019 was declared the International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements, being the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the modern periodic table by Dmitri Mendeleev.

  Brynn Hibbert will take a ramble through the table, re-telling great stories that have been collected by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute as part of its celebrations of Mendeleev's
discovery, and explaining just how we discover and name new elements. Hibbertium here we come!

No chemistry training is required by the audience but the talk does address the NSW Chemistry Stage 6 Syllabus Module 1: Periodicity with inquiry question “Are there patterns in the properties of elements?” and so might be of interest to schools.

**Date:** Thursday, 20 August 2020, 6.00pm  
**Venue:** Zoom webinar. Click here for [help in getting started with Zoom](#)  
**Entry:** No charge  
**Enquiries:** via email

**Kenneth Gillbanks “Ken” Tinley**  
**Industrial Chemist**

Ken Tinley, ASTC, FRACI, CChem passed away on the 13th June 2020 aged 92 years.

Ken had a long career as a research chemist in the building products industry. Ken joined the RACI in 1969 and was a keen supporter of the NSW Industrial Chemistry Group and served as the NSW Branch representative on the Australian Council of Professions. He received the 1993 NSW Presidents Award for Services to the NSW Branch of the RACI and was elected FRACI in 1996.

Ken was born in Brisbane on 13 March 1928 to Harold and Annie Tinley and spent his childhood in Greenslopes, attending Brisbane Grammar School. The family moved to Sydney at the beginning of the second World War but Ken always considered himself a Sydney citizen with a Queenslander’s view of essential things like the joy of drinking sarsaparilla and choosing not to swim in what he considered to be the cold waters of Sydney.

Ken liked to defy medical expectations. Doctors had told his parents that he would be unlikely to reach 20 as he had such a weak chest. Ken didn’t like the idea of an early demise and instead spent most of his spare time hiking and camping. He was a scout and rover with Mosman Sea Scouts and enjoyed a very active youth.

After graduation from Sydney Technical College with an Associate Diploma, Ken established a paint production company with his friend Brian Cant. This kept him busy for a decade. Ken joined Concrete Industries (Monier) Limited in the mid 1960s serving in various technical roles and rising
to the position of Research Manager. Ken’s work at Monier was varied and encompassed all aspects of building products technology including concrete, tiles, adhesives, fasteners, flashings and vents. Like most industrial chemists, Ken didn’t have much opportunity to publish due to commercial considerations, but his work resulted in a number of patent applications and granted patents.

Ken retired from Monier in the late 1980s and worked for several years as a consultant and expert witness in court cases relating to “sick building syndrome”, a condition which was much in the news at the time.

After this, he returned to the mainstream workforce at CSIRO Material Sciences at North Ryde. Again, Ken’s earlier experience and knowledge came into play with his work focusing on bonding of materials as well as exposure and durability evaluation.

Ken followed a busy working life with an active retirement. Ken and his wife Helen travelled overseas and around Australia. Ken became president of the Central Coast Caravan Club and an executive of the Mount Colah Probus Club.

Ken is survived by his wife Helen and children Ian, Sue and Fran, Sharyn and Rob, Simonne, Mark, Megan and Nicole.

Philip Fleming, FRACI, C Chem

RACI News page

Visit the RACI News page for all news and events nationwide:

On this page you can keep up to date with National events and activities that may be happening in your local area. If there is an event you would like published through social media, please contact: communications@raci.org.au and we will be happy to help.

If you’d like to keep up with the latest updates on our social media site, please visit the following:

Facebook: RACInational, Young Chemists Group of NSW
Twitter: @RACInational or @RACI_NSW
Instagram: racinational,

Would you like to become a RACI Fellow?

The RACI Fellow Membership grade is awarded in recognition of a RACI Member (MRACI) who is in a position of eminence within the chemistry profession. Election to this grade is based on:

- Services rendered to the RACI
- Academic qualifications and honours
- Experience and status
- Creative achievement in chemistry
- Responsibility and contribution to chemical science
Acceptance as a RACI Fellow will be based on the recommendation of the RACI Assessment Committee. Further information, contact: member@raci.org.au

Can you help with COVID-19 testing?

The Australian Society for Microbiology (ASM) is looking for volunteers. ASM is putting together a database of qualified people who are willing to be called upon in case of a potential staff shortage to assist with COVID-19 testing (or any other requests required) at hospitals or any other diagnostics lab across Australia.

This database will be shared with local public health hospitals and diagnostic labs. It is envisioned that in the event of a staff shortage, volunteers can be trained to support ongoing COVID-19 testing.

ASM is also looking for people who can donate molecular biology reagents for COVID-19 testing in particular viral swabs and unopened RNA extraction kits.

Submit your details here https://buff.ly/3biYv90

Please contact laurence.luu@unsw.edu.au if you have any questions.

Want to contribute to the NSW Branch newsletter?

The NSW Branch would like to hear from members with news items that may be of interest to the membership. Do you know of any interesting stories or projects that are making a difference, or events that you would like to share with readers? If so, please send an email to raci-nsw@raci.org.au

Deadline for content is the Tuesday before the end of month.

For enquiries:
RACI NSW Branch Office: (02) 9663 4960
RACI National Office (Vale St, North Melbourne): (03) 9328 2033

Positions vacant?
We invite employers to supply 150-word maximum job advertisements, along with a small company logo and clear contact details or weblink. Please email raci-nsw@raci.org.au

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