From the President

Dear RACI SA Branch Members,

With the grand final done and the clocks soon moving forward, to give us that extra hour of evening light, it is a sure sign that the year is nearly gone and Christmas will soon be upon us. But before then a number of important activities are on the branch RACI calendar with the AGM on November 13, at the Astor Hotel. Please come along and help us celebrate another successful year and also consider joining our committee or becoming involved with one of our groups.

There have been a number of recent activities within the branch. Highlights included the Young Chemists Groups careers night and our Dr Matt Sykes great effort to present the 2018 D.R. Stranks Memorial Lecture to 11 schools at 7 different locations. These activities are detailed in this newsletter.

On a more somber note, we also report the passing of John Harvey a former president (1973/4) of the branch.

We are trying to improve the regularity, format and content of the newsletter to better improve communication throughout the Branch membership so any and all contributions from Branch members will be gratefully received, just let our communications officer, Ula Alexander, know.

A pdf version of the newsletter is also available from the SA Branch website.

Michael Perkins
RACI SA Branch President

Recent Events

D.R. Stranks Memorial Lecture 2018

The 2018 Stranks Lecture, ‘Medicines that Changed the World’, was delivered by Dr. Matt Sykes of the School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences at UniSA. This year the lecture was presented to students from 11 SA High Schools, including to approximately 40 students at Penola High School in the Coonawarra (see pictured). Students from Naracoorte, Kingston and Millicent High Schools also attended this particular lecture.

Overall just under 300 students attended at the various venues, which have also included Seaview High School, Norwood-Morialta High School, University Senior College, St
Mary’s College, Banksia Park High School and Cornerstone College in Mt Barker where students from Murray Bridge High also attended. The lecture gave a historical overview of the important role chemistry has played in the development of life-saving medicines, from ancient China to penicillin and modern cancer therapeutics such as Imatinib which is used in the treatment of certain leukemias. The lecture was well received by students and teachers alike, with just under 90% of students surveyed stating that they felt more inspired about chemistry after listening to the talk.

- Dr Matt Sykes - Stranks Memorial Lecturer 2018

Young Chemists Group Pub Crawl - Let's Get Radical

On September 7th some young chemists cruised around Rundle Street to enjoy a few beverages and each other’s company. Thanks to the venues who hosted us and the radical individuals who joined us!

A big thanks also goes to the committee for a great t-shirt design. We still have a few shirts left over, if you would like one contact with us at racyrcgsa@gmail.com or on Facebook.

Young Chemists Group - Careers and networking event

On Thursday September 27th last week, we held a panel and networking session at the Elephant British Pub in Adelaide. Stephanie Anderson (Green Zinc), Courtney Hollis (SAHMRI) and Thomas Fallon (University of Adelaide) joined us on a panel hosted by Nathan Atwood (Bendigo and Adelaide Bank) to share their careers and advice with us. Discussions circled around the importance of your peer network, taking the opportunities and challenges that present themselves, risk vs. reward and resilience. Interestingly we also chatted about both sides of the coin - the rise of jobs in SA and redundancies. After the panel the attendees engaged in social networking over some nibbles and drinks.

Thanks to our panel and host as well as David Jeffery, Matt Sykes and Ula Alexander who made themselves available to talk about their own careers during the networking session. Thanks also to the Women in Chemistry Group for helping with the event.
Photo: Nathan Atwood, Dr Courtney Hollis, Stephanie Anderson and Dr Thomas Fallon.
- Kymberley Scroggie - Young Chemists Group Chair

**Future Events**

**Retired Chemists Group Luncheon Meeting**

The remaining dates for 2018 luncheon meetings are:

- October 10th (members only)
- December 12th (members and partners).

We meet at 12 noon for 12.30 meal at Seven22, 722 Port Road, Beverley, located just past the large Beaumont Tiles outlet on the down side of the Port Road, on bus stop 18. Please contact John Mason (jonmason79@gmail.com) for further details. We always welcome newcomers to share stories of our lives in Chemistry.

**Yalumba Winery Tour - Thursday October 11th**

RACI SA Branch Industrial Chemistry Group in conjunction with the Joint Chemical Engineering Committee (JCEC) invite you to a tour of the Yalumba Winery at Angaston in the Barossa Valley. Come and visit a working winery and gain insight in to the daily operations associated with wine production. The tour will conclude with a wine tasting.

**When:** Thursday October 11th from 2pm to ~4pm

**Where:** Yalumba Winery, 40 Eden Valley Rd, Angaston (meet in main carpark)

**Cost:** $5 for RACI, EA, IChemE Members and Student Members; $10 for Non-members

Click [here](#) to register. Numbers are limited to a maximum of 40 people. Attendees will need to organise their own transport. Closed footwear is essential. Contact Matt Sykes (Matt.Sykes@unisa.edu.au) or Kaitlyn McCrone (kaitlyn.mccrone@gmail.com) for more information.

**SA Pharmaceutical Group Symposium - Friday October 26th**

**Save the date** - Please be advised that the Pharmaceutical Group Symposium for this year will be held on Friday 26th October from 3pm to 6:30pm in the new South Australian Cancer Research Institute Building at the UniSA City West Campus, which has stunning views of the north Parklands.
The symposium will include interstate guest speakers and short talks from SA Industry participants. As always there will be ample time for networking at the end over finger food and drinks. The program and online registration process will be advertised very soon. The symposium is generously sponsored by the School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences at UniSA.

- Matt Sykes - Pharmaceutical Group Chair

**Polymer Group - Visiting Speaker - Tuesday November 1st**

Polymer Group invites you to a talk by Kris Matyjaszewski, J.C. Warner University Professor of Natural Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University. Kris discovered Cu-mediated atom transfer radical polymerization (ATRP), commercialized in 2004 in US, Japan and Europe.

He will be giving a talk "Nanostructured Functional Hybrid Materials By ATRP" at Flinders University, Bedford Park, 12pm November 1st 2018 in South Theatre 2. Abstract is available here. The venue is F11 on the campus map available here. For more information, contact Deb Ward (deb3ward@yahoo.com.au) or Nathan O’Brien (nathan.obrien@flinders.edu.au) at the Flinders Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology.

- Deb Ward - Polymer Group Chair

**SA Branch End-of-Year Dinner and AGM - Tuesday November 13th**

Registration is now available here for the SA Branch end-of-year dinner and annual general meeting (AGM) being held Tuesday November 13th at the Astor Hotel, 437 Pulteney Street, Adelaide. Please save the date to join in this occasion which is an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the past year with other members and to honour members who have received 25 and 50 year memberships.

The event includes a 2 course dinner with drinks, tea, coffee and a "signature" periodic table element cake for dessert. For more information, please contact Chris Sumby (Chris.Sumby@adelaide.edu.au). Thank you to our sponsors AWRI and FB Rice.

**SA Physical Chemistry/Materials Symposium - Thursday November 22nd**

Save the date - The 2019 SA Physical/Materials Chemistry Symposium will be held on Thursday November 22nd at Flinders at Victoria Square, Adelaide. The full-day event will feature talks and posters by staff and students who have research interests in physical and materials chemistry.

The keynote speaker this year is Professor Michelle Coote from the Australian National University. Michelle is a renowned physical and polymer chemist whose expertise is in computer-aided chemical design. Michelle applies computational and experimental methods to reveal the extraordinary catalytic power of enzymes, design materials with tuneable debonding properties and improved stability to degradation, and design reagents to control stereochemistry of polymers produced in free radical polymerization. In 2014, she was elected to the Fellowship of the Australian Academy of Science, and in 2017 she was awarded a Georgina Sweet ARC Laureate Fellowship. She is also currently an Associate Editor of the Journal of the American Chemical Society.

Registration details available soon. For more information, contact Assoc. Prof Tak Kee (Tak.Kee@adelaide.edu.au).

- Tak Kee - Physical Chemistry Group Chair

**Women in Chemistry Group - Chemists in Conversation - Wednesday November 21st**
Save the date! - Please join us Wednesday November 21st for end-of-year networking and panel discussion with guests, Prof Michelle Coote (ANU), Prof Emily Hilder (UniSA), Prof Claire Lenehan (Flinders University) and Assoc. Prof Tara Pukala (Uni Adelaide) as they discuss how we can help people succeed in STEM roles. Michelle Coote proposed the new RACI Margaret Sheil Leadership Award and is Chair of the RACI Inclusion and Diversity Committee. Read more about Michelle's research background including being a Eureka Prize 2018 finalist here.

The event will be from 4pm to 6pm at Flinders at Victoria Square, Adelaide. Registration available soon. For more details contact Ula.Alexander@flinders.edu.au.

- Ula Alexander - Women in Chemistry Group Chair

Other

Welcome to New SA RACI Members, as follows;

**August**

- Samuel Nitschke
- Mikala Kidd
- Dirk Bester
- Neil Srimgeour

Remembering John Harvey (FRACI, OAM)

John passed away on September 20th at the grand age of 95.

A Life Member of RACI, John was SA Branch President 1973/4 and had been a Fellow since 1963. He served on SA Branch Committee for several years during his career and was an active member of the Retired Chemists Group – serving as Group Convenor around the turn of this century.

John was a local lad who was virtually directed into Chemistry during WW2. He studied at the SA School of Mines and Industries (precursor to UniSA) where he completed the old Diploma of Industrial Chemistry (ASASM) that equipped so many of the Industrial Chemists of that time. That training produced graduates who were generally excellent Analytical Chemists with the confidence to get “sleeves up” to design, implement and operate new and often complex chemical processes. John’s history is really interesting and we have [linked an article](#) that he presented to his local Historical Society of his wartime training and work experiences, and we think that article reveals some of those attributes. Soon after the War ended, John joined a local brewery.

As is usually the case with these early chemists, he moved into that business and made it a career (how more noble could you get?). With passion and integrity he treated beer as a social necessity more than a money mine. After almost 40 years, when he retired from the role of Head Brewer in the SA Brewing Company, John continued to contribute as an official Beer Taster and advisor to the International Craft Beer industry. He was awarded an OAM in 2007 for his work in the Brewing Industry and was held in very high esteem internationally.

An active member of the Retired Chemists Group, his gentle manner of mixing with people (usually over a beer!), his wealth of yarns about people and experiences and his wry sense of humour was wonderful. He kept himself well informed on all affairs and possessed a wisdom that we all envy.

He maintained an active presence, not only in our Institute, but in many local service groups and speciality organisations to which he contributed during his life.

A lovely and lively old gent - we will miss him.

- John Mason - Retired Chemists Group