



NOVEMBER 2010

NEWSLETTER

**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CHEMICAL
INSTITUTE INC (WA BRANCH)**

A.B.N. 69 030 287 244 A.I.R.N. A00 403 86D A.R.B.N. 102 726 429

PO Box 421, Leederville WA 6903
Telephone: 0403 022 968 Fax: 6210 1675
E-mail: wabbranch@raci.org.au
Website: www.raci.org.au/wa

WA BRANCH ANNUAL MEMBERS' DINNER

Waterwall Function Room, Esplanade River Suites, 112 Melville Parade, Como

The Evening will incorporate the AGM and the presentation of Membership and Long Service Awards. The winner of the Alton McAllan Batty Medal will present the after-dinner speech. Registration and pre-dinner drinks are subsidised by RACI WA and **Rowe Scientific** has kindly donated a door prize.

- Date:** Friday, 5th November 2010
Time: 7pm Registration and pre-dinner drinks, 7.30pm AGM and 7:45pm Dinner
Where: Waterwall Function Room, Esplanade River Suites 112 Melville Parade, Como
Cost: \$65 member and partner, \$50 student or retiree, \$80 non-members
RSVP: to Cath Miller, by Tuesday 2nd November 2010 wabbranch@raci.org.au

**Interested in being involved in RACI during the International Year of Chemistry?
Enthusiastic people always welcome. See committee member form on page 7.**

Water and Uranium Mining



The RACI Health Safety and Environment Group is assisting the Australian Water Association (WA Branch) to present this Half Day Seminar.

Date: Tuesday 23 November 2010

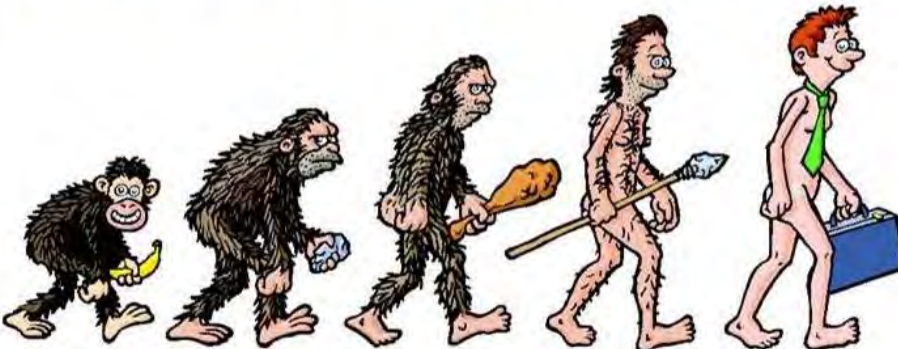
Location: Chemistry Centre, Resources and Chemistry Precinct, Curtin University

Purpose: To highlight water issues associated with the development of uranium mining in West Australia, both at the surface and in groundwater.

9:00 AM	Opening Address Graham Jacobs, Minister for Water and Mental Health
9:30 AM	Olympic Dam – lessons learnt Dr Ian Duncan, FTSE, Past President WMC (now BHP Billiton) Olympic Dam Operations
10:00 AM	Uranium mining in WA – An 18 months progress report Dr Ivor Roberts, Director, Mineral Titles, DMP
10:30 AM	Morning Tea
11:00 AM	Managing uranium in the environment Dr Grant Douglas, Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO Dr Henning Prommer, Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO
11:30 AM	Water resource management Gary Humphreys, DoW
12:00 Noon	Environmental perspective Ray Claudius, Principal Policy Officer, Uranium Assessments, Assessments and Compliance Services, Office of the EPA
12:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM	Seminar Closes

To register, please contact HSEG Chair Kathryn Linge: k.linge@curtin.edu.au


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National Chemistry Quiz



Every October and November, WA RACI members volunteer to present Australian National Chemistry Quiz plaques at secondary schools throughout WA. Held during National Chemistry Week in July, the Australian National Chemistry Quiz is one of the RACI's most significant annual activities, and aims to promote interest in and appreciation of the role of chemistry and chemists in our society. All students receive a Certificate of Participation, with the top 800 entrants also receiving a Plaque, and entrants obtaining 100% receiving a Certificate of Excellence and a plaque. Over the years, the Quiz has grown from 29 000 Australian students in 1984 to an international quiz involving over 115,000 students from 15 countries in 2010.

I attended an assembly at Como Secondary College on Tuesday 19th October to present a National Chemistry Quiz Plaque to Year 11 student, Eliot Courtney, acknowledging his outstanding results in the 2010 Quiz. This marked the first time that a student at Como Secondary College had been awarded a plaque and it was great to see how excited and enthusiastic both staff and students were about the award. It's always good fun to represent the RACI and promote Chemistry at events such as this, and the schools are always very appreciative to have a RACI member visit. I'd heartily recommend anyone interested in volunteering to present National Chemistry Quiz Plaques at a local school to get in touch with the WA Branch and give it a go.

Kathryn Linge

Chair, Health, Safety & Environment Group

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For more information or to arrange a demonstration,

Contact Graeme Walker

Ph: (08) 9409 3853 Fax (08) 9409 3912.

Email: graeme@walkerscientific.com.au



The Royal Australian Chemical Institute Inc
Western Australian Branch



Synthetic and Organic Chemistry Group

*Embracing synthesis, isolation and reactivity of
organic, organometallic and coordination compounds*

Invites you to the second

One Day Symposium

Monday 29th November 2010

Plenary Lecturer: Birch Medallist, Prof Mark Rizzacasa

With a focus on *Students and New Chemical Industry Employees*, the symposium will be a chance for scientists with an interest in the synthesis, isolation and reactivity of compounds to meet and discuss their latest work.

Symposium presentations will be held in Hill Lecture Theatre

Murdoch University

Building 450 Education and Humanities

Morning tea and lunch in the Pendopo Courtyard

Poster session and drinks at the Guild Tavern, Building 418

Presentations from 9:00 to 15:00

Poster Session 15:00-16:30

Lunch & coffee/tea provided

Dinner TBA (at own expense)

Students (RACI Member) \$10 • Students (non-RACI Member) \$20

RACI Members \$30* • Non-RACI members \$50*

* 50% discount for retired and unemployed chemists

Register your interest for talks, posters and attendance by the 8th of November with:

Dr Scott G Stewart, UWA, sgs@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

Dr David Brown, Curtin, d.h.brown@curtin.edu.au

Dr Kate Rowen, Murdoch, K.Rowen@murdoch.edu.au

Further details will be emailed to interested parties

A preference for talks will be given to students and new industry employees



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A student comes into his lab class right at the end of the hour. Fearing he'll get an "F", he asks a fellow student what she's been doing. "We've been observing water under the microscope. We're supposed to write up what we see." The page of her notebook is filled with little figures resembling circles and ellipses with hair on them. The panic-stricken student hears the bell go off, opens his notebook and writes, "During this laboratory, I examined water under the microscope and I saw twice as many H's as O's."

At the end of the semester, a 10th-grade chemistry teacher asked her students what was the most important thing that they learned in lab. A student promptly raised his hand and said, "Never lick the spoon."

The Official Unabashed Scientific Dictionary defines asymmetry as a place where you bury dead people.

'RHEOLOGY FOR PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS' WORKSHOP

ONE-DAY, WEDNESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2010

ARRC, 26 Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington, WA 6151

This one day seminar will cover a wide range of materials processing applications of rheological techniques, from minerals through to food, from slurries to solids. Keynote lectures will be given on the flow of mineral slurries by Professor Paul Slatter (RMIT), the rheometry of multi-phase mixtures by Dr Andrew Chryst (CSIRO), the characterisation of materials for medical applications by Dr Michael Glinsky (CSIRO CEO Science Leader) and Micro-CT and digital bread for texture of breads by Dr Sumana Bell (CSIRO).

The cost is \$40 per head, which includes lunch. The full program and registration details can be found at:

<http://www.csiro.au/events/Rheology-Seminar.html>

DAVID KOCH POSTGRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT

awarded by
RACI Western Australian Branch

The RACI Western Australian branch invites applications for the annual David Koch Postgraduate Student Travel Grant. The award, up to a maximum value of \$3000, is available to Honours, Masters and PhD students in WA with the purpose of sponsoring national or international travel to an approved conference. The successful applicant will be required to write a report on the conference for the RACI WA Branch Newsletter. Applications close on **Friday 25th February 2011**. Application forms are available from the RACI WA Branch Coordinator (wabbranch@raci.org.au or PO Box 421 Leederville WA 6903). Applications will be evaluated by Dr Phillip Fawell, CSIRO Process Science and Engineering and Dr Harry Linge, Past Chair of the RACI Surface Science Group.

To be considered eligible:

1. The student must present either a talk or a poster. Oral papers will be given precedence.
2. The research must fall within the remit of the RACI.
3. The student must be a member of the RACI (Associate RACI membership is \$70) and be enrolled at a WA-based Institution.

Background to the Award

The David Koch Postgraduate Student Travel Award has been offered annually to WA students since 1994. Whilst initially focusing on surface science and physical chemistry, the award has recently been opened to all students undertaking pure or applied chemistry-based research.

The David Koch Postgraduate Student Travel Grant commemorates the late Dr David Koch, former Chief of Mineral Chemistry, who initiated the move of CSIRO from Melbourne to Perth in 1984 and fostered and supported WA-based co-operative research in Hydrometallurgy and other related sciences. He is also commemorated by the Koch Building at the CSIRO Waterford site, adjacent to the Curtin University Resources and Chemistry Precinct.

The award is made possible by the efforts of RACI WA Branch Surface Science Group, which was formed in 1984 when members of the then CSIRO Division of Mineral Chemistry relocated from Melbourne to Perth to form the nucleus of what is now CSIRO Process Science and Engineering at Curtin University. Surface Science was the key expert area underpinning much of the early hydrometallurgical/mineral processing/mineral science work of CSIRO and the group coordinated contact with staff at Curtin University, WASM, Murdoch and UWA and held annual conferences to facilitate technology transfer and student participation in research.

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RACI ANNUAL WA BRANCH COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Nominations are invited for the following positions on the RACI Western Australian Branch Committee for the Year 2010/2011: **PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, HON SECRETARY, HON TREASURER, AND FOUR BRANCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS.**

Nominations are also invited for the positions of:

Chair (Ex Officio Branch Committee member), Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Members for the following Groups: Analytical Chemistry; Chemical Education; Health, Safety and Environment; Management and Career Development; Synthetic and Organic Chemistry; and Tertiary Chemistry Students.

A candidate for the Branch Committee must be nominated by two Corporate Members and indicate her/his willingness to accept office by signing as nominee on the nomination form below. Nominations should be sent to the Branch Coordinator by email wabranch@raci.org.au or fax 08 6210 1675 by **Tuesday 2nd November.**

(Please detach here)

WA NOMINATIONS FOR 2010/2011 BRANCH COMMITTEE

BRANCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND EX-OFFICIO MEMBER GROUPS - ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY; CHEMICAL EDUCATION; HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT; MANAGEMENT AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT; SYNTHETIC & ORGANIC CHEMISTRY AND, TERTIARY CHEMISTRY STUDENTS.

We.....(Member/Fellow)

and.....(Member/Fellow)

hereby nominate.....

for the position of.....
(specify office)

for the 2010/2011.....WA Branch Committee
(specify Position & Group)

.....
(Signature of Nominators)

.....
(Signature of Nominators)

I consent to this nomination
(Signature of Nominee)

Date:



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2010

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Date	Event	Location/ Comment	Source
05.11.2010	AGM & Symposium Dinner	Esplanade River Suites, Como	WA Branch RACI
13.11.2010	National Assembly Meeting	Held at Holiday Inn, Melbourne	National Office
23.11.2010	Water and Uranium Mining	Held at Chemistry Centre, Chemistry Precinct, Curtin	HSE Group
29.11.2010	Organic Chemistry Symposium	Held at Murdoch University	SOC Group

Enquiries to Branch Coordinator Ben Fletcher: Phone 0403 022 968, e-mail: wabbranch@raci.org.au

Understanding Engineers:

A priest, a doctor, and an engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers. The engineer fumed, 'What's with those guys? We must have been waiting for fifteen minutes!'

The doctor chimed in, 'I don't know, but I've never seen such inept golf!'

The priest said, 'Here comes the greens keeper. Let's have a word with him.' He said, 'Hello, George! what's wrong with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?'

The greens keeper replied, 'Oh, yes. That's a group of blind fire fighters. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime.'

The group fell silent.

The priest said, 'That's so sad I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight.'

The doctor said, 'Good idea. I'm going to contact my ophthalmologist colleague and see if there's anything he can do for them.'

The engineer said, 'Why can't they play at night?'

E-MAIL ADVERTISING RATES

Three-quarters of the total RACI WA Branch membership and Environmentalists (totalling about 700 of a select and highly targeted group) are registered to receive e-mail notices from the Branch Committee. Those RACI members who have a need to circulate an urgent message or advertisement of general interest to WA Branch members can request approval (wabbranch@raci.org.au) to have the advert (sans attachment) circulated free of charge. If the advert is of a revenue producing nature then the following charges apply:

ADVERTISEMENT WITHOUT ATTACHMENT, i.e. the message is contained within the body of the e-mail, a charge of \$120 +GST will be made.

ADVERTISEMENT WITHIN AN ATTACHMENT, i.e. the message is contained in an attachment to the e-mail, a charge of \$167 +GST will be made.

PAYMENT for advertisements must be made within 7 days of receipt of invoice.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

SINGLE ADVERTISEMENT: \$120 +GST for one-quarter A4 page, \$160 +GST for one-third A4 page, and multiples thereof, for print ready artwork or a print ready MS Word file.

MULTIPLE ADVERTISEMENTS: for three or more consecutive newsletter issues, a discount of 25% applies.

PAYMENT for all issues must be made in advance and within 7 days of receipt of invoice.

Branch Newsletter Deadlines For 2010/2011

Month of Journal	Deadline Date
December	Fri 26 November
No January issue of the Newsletter	

Deadline is close of business (5 pm) on the nominated dates.

All articles must be in MS Word. PC format preferred.

Please submit all articles to paula.mclay@measurement.gov.au