

BRANCH NEWS

VICTORIA BRANCH REPORT

June: a site visit to Alcoa's Point Henry aluminium smelter, organised by Nigel Stone. This was well attended, 18 members making the trek to Geelong. Given the enthusiasm of the comments that were reported back afterwards, I think this was one of the most successful visits ever made by the society.

July: a meeting at ARRB Transport Research Ltd, where a presentation was made on concrete by Dr Ahmad Shayan.

August: an interesting site visit was made to CSR Monier Wunderlich, hosted by Michael Dorrough. We had a fine tour of the plant and heard how hard it was to make money when competing with iron and concrete. Michael wished he was making floor tiles where the \$/kg is far higher.

September: a visit to MiniFab (Australia), where the members learned from Erol Harvey about micro and nano technology and how lasers are used in nano manufacturing.

November: the golf day, once again organised by Stephen Zsembery, at Ivanhoe Golf Club. Again everyone went home with a prize thanks to the generosity of the sponsors, although hardly anyone deserved one given the standard of most of the golf.

December: Christmas Dinner held at The Potters Cottage restaurant. We had drinks in the gallery and admired the works of art before enjoying a first class meal in fine company.

Unfortunately there have been no meetings held in 2004 until today's AGM. However, under Martin's stewardship, I am sure the society will

be reinvigorated. A talk is scheduled for October to be given by Graham Sussex on a topic connected with his specialty of corrosion science. Finally, thank you to all the other hard working members of the committee and please help Martin Stuart to make a great success of his year as President.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH REPORT

The June Branch meeting was a tour of the facilities at Concord Engineering. Ten members participated and were given a great insight by member Cathy Hewitt as to the company's manufacturing facilities for its SiConTM silicon carbide product, and polyurethane components used in the mining industry. Following the tour, the company kindly put on some drinks and nibbles. There are sponsorship opportunities and chances to display wares at the accompanying trade exhibition. Please contact Nigel Stone for further details.

The Branch was addressed by Geoffrey Carter of Doral Specialty Chemicals on Tuesday 3rd August at the School of Physical Sciences at Curtin University of Technology. The topic of Geoffrey's talk was "Development of Yttria Stabilised Zirconia for the Solid Oxide Fuel Cell Market by Doral Specialty Chemicals". Geoffrey is Senior Materials Scientist at Doral Specialty Chemicals. Doral Specialty Chemicals (DSC) previously Millennium Performance Chemicals (MPC) located at Rockingham WA has been producing high purity zirconia for a large number of applications for a number of years. In 2001 a new development cycle was initiated to develop super high quality yttria stabilised zirconia suitable for use in the Solid Oxide Fuel Cell (SOFC) market. Geoffrey's talk will in broad brush strokes outline some of the requirements for SOFC's as well as discussing in some detail

the results of some of the research conducted Doral's front running product that is unique in the market place.

The Branch will be addressed by Nigel Kirby on applications of Synchrotron Radiation on Tuesday 5th October.

Following a very successful evening in 2003, the winner of the WA Branch ACS Prize for 2004 will be selected from presentations given by the top two students from each of the Materials and Mechanical Engineering Groups at Curtin University in December.

Tuesday 3rd August. Talk by Geoff Carter on activities/advancements at Millennium Chemicals.

October - Talk by Nigel Kirby on applications of Synchrotron Radiation. Date and time to be arranged.

Wednesday 24th November. Following a very successful evening in 2003, this format of selection of the WA Branch ACS Prize winner will be repeated in 2004.

Friday 10th December. Branch Christmas party.

David Phillips
WA Branch Secretary

NSW BRANCH REPORT

The NSW Branch August function was a technical seminar by Associate Professor Besim Ben-Nissan from the University of Technology, Sydney. Besim presented the current trends in bioceramics research including the current bioceramics in orthopaedics, nano bioceramics, the replacement of bone and biomimetics that emulate nature's biological processes. An excerpt of this seminar is included in this Bulletin.

The October Branch function will be a plant tour of the National Ceramic Industries Tile Manufacturing Plant at Rutherford.

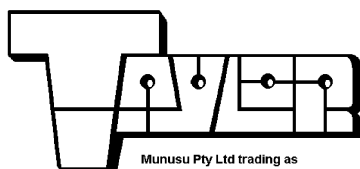
Cathy Inglis
NSW Branch President

“A lot of things we do are really hard!”
We'd like to do something really hard for you too!

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