



# RACI Electrochemistry Division

## Newsletter

**No.3**

**March 1997**

### Editorial

Welcome to the third issue of the EDRACI newsletter. Our mail list has grown to nearly 100 and includes electrochemists in academe and industry in most parts of Australia and New Zealand. The list is intended to provide a means for electrochemists to communicate information quickly and easily to those who want to receive it. The newsletter acts as the regular vehicle for this, but urgent relevant notices can be quickly disseminated between newsletters, e.g. further information about the Workshop at Monash will be forwarded shortly. I will not give the list to anyone else to use because I wish to preserve the integrity of the list. It is also more equitable to maintain one central, up-to-date list so that information is distributed to everyone at the same time. So if you have information to disseminate urgently, send it to me and I will shoot it around the Antipodes (and beyond) rapidly.

### 10th Australasian Electrochemistry Conference (10AEC)

10AEC was held in early February at the Ramada Hotel on the Gold Coast. The technical content was broad and stimulating, the social events were pleasant and enjoyable (who could forget the BBQ by the pool, or the after-dinner speaker?), the trade display was up-to-date and relevant, and the location and weather were hard to beat. The Breyer Medal was awarded to Prof. Royce Murray, the Stokes Medal to Prof. Ian Ritchie, and the Bloom-Gutmann prize to Truc Vu (Monash University). All in all, the conference was a success and thanks are due to Greg Hope and David Druskovich (and helpers) for their hard work in organising it. Proceedings of the conference are being produced.

### EDRACI Committee

An AGM of the Electrochemistry Division of the RACI was held at 10AEC and the following committee-members were elected:

Chair:	Gordon Wallace	Secretary:	Bruce Verity
Treasurer:	Richard John	Past Chair:	Sam Adeloju
International Relations:	Alan Bond	NZIC Contact:	Alison Downard
Committee:	Stuart Bailey, Carol Davis, David Davey, Tony Hollenkamp, Rodney Williams, Danny Wong		

### Workshop on the Theory and Practice of Modern Electrochemical Techniques

As decided at the AGM at 10AEC, this workshop will be presented by the Monash University Chemistry Department Electrochemistry Group and the Electrochemical Division of the RACI on

**Wednesday & Thursday, April 9 & 10, 1997.**

The workshop will be held at Monash University, Department of Chemistry, Clayton and will comprise both the theoretical and practical aspects of recent advances in electrochemical techniques, including Electrochemical Theory and Simulations, Electrochemical Quartz Crystal Microbalance, Flowing Electrochemical Cell, Fourier Transform, Microelectrode and Voltammetric Studies. The speakers include International (Profs K. B. Oldham and S. W. Feldberg) and Australian leaders in these fields.

Cost: \$60 for Non-RACI members, \$50 for RACI members.

Please note that numbers are restricted to 50; application will be accepted in order of receipt.

For further information: Adrian van den Bergen, tel. (03) 9905 4523, fax (03) 9905 459  
Glenda Oliver tel. (03) 9905 4507  
E-mail: A.vandenbergen@sci.monash.edu.au

**Australasian News**

Matthew Jeffery of the A.J. Parker Centre in Perth reached the final two in the Australian Skeptics Award (one of the Eureka Awards). The Skeptics Award is for a young scientist who successfully doubts currently held beliefs. Matthew showed that the reaction rate of very pure gold in very pure cyanide was, rather surprisingly, extremely slow. Only when certain impurities (e.g. lead) are added to the cyanide solution, or are present in the gold itself, does the metal dissolve rapidly. Much of this research was carried out using electrochemical techniques.

### **Web Site**

Paul Duckworth of ADInstruments has advised us of a web service offered by the Electrochemical Science and Technology Information Resource (ESTIR) at <http://www.cmt.anl.gov/estir/info.htm>. The service is hosted by the Chemical Technology Division of Argonne National Laboratory and maintained by Zoltan Nagy. It provides a directory of graduate schools where a student can obtain a Ph.D. degree (or equivalent) by working for a professor who specializes in electrochemical science or engineering. The file contains over 200 listings from more than 35 countries. However, only five Australian entries appear in the "graduate schools directory" (<http://www.cmt.anl.gov/estir/grads.htm#austral>). If you want to be listed send the following information to: [nagy@cmt.anl.gov](mailto:nagy@cmt.anl.gov).

Full name:

Department:

University:

Mailing address:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

WWW home page:

Degree offered and in what field of science or engineering (e.g. Ph.D. in chemistry):

A brief description of research interests, maximum ten (80 character) lines; use keyword type descriptors to facilitate searches.

### **Pittcon 97**

The Pittsburgh Conference (Pittcon) is held in the USA annually and is the largest scientific instrument exposition in the world. Pittcon 97 is to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, March 16-21, and will have over 1000 exhibitors. Almost all major electrochemical instrument manufacturers will have their products on display.

More details and registration are available from the world wide web on <http://www.pittcon.org/>

Symposia and contributed sessions at Pittcon 97 will cover electrochemical topics, analytical chemistry (especially chromatography and capillary electrophoresis) and spectroscopy.

### **6th International Seminar on Electroanalytical Chemistry (6th ISEC)**

This conference will be held in Changchun, China, from October 10-13, 1997. For more details contact:

Prof Erkang Wang

Director

Changchun Scientific Research Centre of Applied Chemistry

Changchun 130022

China

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Phone +86 431 568 2801

### **Post-Doctoral Position Wanted**

Indrajit Mukhopadhyay, is a research student about to complete his Ph.D. in the Department of Chemistry, IIT, Bombay, on the electrochemistry and photoelectrochemistry of metal-electrolyte and semiconductor-electrolyte interfaces. He has also done some work with polyaniline for biosensors and switches. He would like to undertake postdoctoral work in Australia on thin film semiconductors with interesting electronic and optoelectronic properties.

His address is: Department of Chemistry  
Indian Institute of Technology  
Bombay - 400 076  
INDIA  
E-Mail : indra@ether.chem.iitb.ernet.in

His CV is available from the Editor.

### **New Microelectrodes Released**

Windsor Scientific of the UK have released a range of gold microdot array electrodes (up to 127 dots of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  diameter) and microband electrodes (10  $\mu\text{m}$  width and separation, up to 8 per electrode). A set of 10 electrodes costs about £125. Further details:

Dr. Keith Dawes  
Windsor Scientific Limited  
852 Plymouth Road  
Slough Trading Estate  
Slough, Berkshire, SL 1 4LP  
UK  
email: 100726.3663@compuserve.com

### **In the Next Issue (June, 1997)...**

• Chemistry in the West

**Deadline for material: May 30, 1997.**

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