

## **Oceanic report for IFEA 2012**

Endodontics in Oceania has been thriving well in 2011 and 2012 however the passing of two eminent individuals in 2011 cast a shadow over our region.

The passing of Dr Earnst (Effy) Erhmann on April 26, 2011 and Dr Peter Kaleski on October 06, 2011 was marked by tributes in the Australian Endodontic Journal. Below please find these tributes to honor Effy and Peter's contribution to the Australian Society of Endodontology and endodontic teaching in Australia.

Effy will be remembered as the "father" of endodontics in Australia and the founder of the Australian Endodontic Society (ASE). Both Effy and Peter will be sorely missed by their families and the community. They left a wonderful legacy and will be remembered lovingly amongst the endodontic community in Australasia.

### **The Australian report was kindly furnished by the President of the ASE, Dr Daniel Farmer:**

The 2nd Trans Tasman Endodontic Conference (TTEC) held in Christchurch in November 2010 was highly successful. Solely financed and organized by the ASE it made a significant profit. Over 320 delegates, predominantly from Australia, attended. The keynote speakers were Prof Asgeir Sigurdson from Iceland and Prof Stanley Malamed from the USA. They were well supported by a field of Australian and New Zealand speakers.

The Australian Society of Endodontology pre-Australian Dental Association Congress day on March 30th 2011 was very successful. Dr Tony Hoskinson from the United Kingdom presented and was supported by Prof Paul Abbott from Australia. The number of attendees exceeded 150 for the day, which was very pleasing considering it was 5 months after TTEC in Christchurch. The feedback was very good and Tony kept everyone entertained and informed throughout the day.

The 3rd TTEC to be held in June 2012 on the Gold Coast is headlined by keynote speakers Dr Linda Peters from the Netherlands and Dr Jim Gutman from the USA. They will be supported by Drs Kersten Geller and Christine Berthold from Germany and a host of Australian and NZ speakers. The expressions of interest thus far have doubled that of previous conferences and the trade has been very supportive. The program has been released and it is shaping up to be the largest conference run by the ASE, in conjunction with the NZSE, yet.

The membership remains very strong and has increased by about 10% from 2010.

The Australian Endodontic Journal (AEJ) recently received its first Impact Factor: 1.25, which was much higher than we were expecting. This is very good news for the journal and puts our journal on the same playing field as all of the other international endodontic journals except for the JOE. Credit is given to Assoc Prof Ralph Reid and

his editorial board for their efforts and diligence in reviewing the multitude of manuscripts that pass his desk each week.

The ASE website is up to date and all contact details of the executive are on it. Fiona Heard has been kind enough to continue as the website coordinator.

**The New Zealand report was kindly furnished by the President of NZSE, Dr Sara Jardine:**

The society is in good spirit with a membership of roughly 280 but we are always on the look out for more willing members of course.

It has an executive of eight members, which meets regularly via Skype.

We have a mainly clinically based journal, The New Zealand Endodontic Journal, that is published twice a year furnished with material mainly from the endodontic post graduate students at The University Otago Dental School.

We also now have a web site ([www.nzse.org.nz](http://www.nzse.org.nz)), which is available to the general public as well as a member's only link to the journal.

The Society is actively involved in the organization of the up coming TTEC to be held on the Gold Coast in June 2012.

We have also set up a research grant this past year, which is managed through the NZDA research foundation, to help provide funding for endodontically based research in New Zealand.

Below please find the tributes to Dr Ernst (Effy) Ehrmann and Dr Peter Kaleski.

Thank you

Dr Alan Nerwich

Oceanic Regent – IFEA

## **TRIBUTE TO DR ERNST EHRMANN OAM**

*Affectionately known to all as "Effy"*

Effy Ehrmann passed away on Wed 26<sup>th</sup> April 2011, after a relatively short period of illness, having been diagnosed with an inoperable tumour late the previous December. Effy was a never a man to dwell on his own personal concerns, and remained stoic and lucid till the end, surrounded and supported by Susie, his wife of more than 50 years, and close family. His funeral was attended by many of his friends and colleagues from all the various walks of life into which he had made a significant contribution. Effy was still attending lectures and teaching undergrads until last year. His was a life of service to the very end.

In the dental sphere, very few people have been in the position of being at the heart of, in the modern parlance, "a paradigm shift". For too long, the problem of managing infected teeth was too readily solved by extraction, without sufficient regard for the long-term consequences and for the well being of patients. This change of attitude towards retaining teeth was not achieved overnight, but over decades, through a constant process of passionate promotion of continuing education for the profession and for encouraging higher standards of treatment with appropriate scientific understanding. This at a time, when the need for further education, was not always readily available.

Effy was there, as the crusader, to take up the challenge, however this crusade was not without many battles against the prevailing views and dominant personalities involved in dentistry at the time.

*Early Times in Australia*

Effy was a man affected by his times. Born in Mainz, Germany on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1924, the prevailing political circumstances, which are now almost impossible to fathom but for which people today should never forget, meant that his family chose to emigrate from their native Germany and eventually they settled in Australia in 1939. As a teenager, Effy was schooled at Melbourne Boys High School, a Government school for those boys who showed academic promise. Life at school was sometimes difficult, because many of the new boys from overseas were "on the outer". After completion of his studies, Effy eventually enrolled in the Dental School at The University of Melbourne where he completed his B.D.Sc. qualification in 1949. A unique dental career had begun!

*Overseas Experience 1950 to 1955*

Not for Effy the pathway of working immediately in private practice. He felt the desire and need to expand his horizons, knowledge and clinical skills. For the next several years he had hospital and teaching appointments overseas, mainly in the U.K and Canada and obtained further qualifications: F.D.S.R.C.S (Eng); L.D.S.R.C.D.S.

(Ontario); D.D.S. (Toronto). It was whilst overseas, but especially in Toronto that he developed his enthusiasm for and skills in diagnosis, treatment planning and general patient care in endodontics.

#### *Return to Melbourne. Practice Career.*

Upon returning to Australia, Effy commenced private general practice in Melbourne, until 1967. During this time he increasingly became known as the dentist “who tried to keep teeth for patients”. He would frequently receive referrals for difficult cases from other dentists.

The time was approaching to make the leap into the unknown: to restrict his practice to endodontics only. In 1968 Effy was amongst the first dentists in Australia to do so. This was regarded as a very brave move at the time. Would there be sufficient referrals to maintain such a restricted practice? Typical comments from colleagues at the time included “we don’t see much demand for that sort of thing” It may have been demoralizing, however the answer was not long in coming. By providing an excellent service to his referring dentists, especially in the areas of pain diagnosis and pain relief, Effy’s reputation grew, and both patients and dentists benefited.

At the same time Effy made a contribution to the wider community. He became a part-time visiting dental consultant at Prince Henry’s Hospital, a position he retained for many years, assisting patients with significant health and dental issues and making many worthwhile contacts in the medical and surgical profession. At the time of his retirement from this position, when the hospital itself closed, he was the only specialist endodontist attached to a public hospital in Australia. Subsequently the dental unit was transferred to Monash Medical Centre, with a continuing position as an endodontic consultant as his legacy.

#### *Educational Involvement*

This is a vast area of contribution, especially for someone who was not in a full time academic position. Effy’s passion extended not just to the theoretical aspects of endodontics, but also into the more practical aspects of incorporating endodontics into the routine practice of a busy general dentist. He had many tips and techniques, about which he was always willing to share his knowledge. Effy was always testing new products and devices with a view to assessing their benefit to achieving the goals of a better result for patients and a better experience for dentists and their staff. Effy had no professional secrets, and was always willing to learn and share knowledge with any colleague with a receptive mind.

In 1975, Effy commenced a very long and productive relationship with the University of Melbourne, being initially a lecturer and in due course being recognized as a Senior Fellow. He has been involved in the teaching of endodontics and pain diagnosis in both the undergraduate and postgraduate courses and clinics. He was encouraging to students and dentists where he saw potential and effort had been applied, yet would

also be a hard taskmaster if he felt that better standards could have been achieved. Effy would frequently give credit to others. He would often remark that “he always learnt from the colleagues he worked with”.

Recognizing that clinical endodontics was team effort, from 1965 to 1982 he provided lectures to the dental nurses training course, a course then run by the ADA VB. He was also involved in organizing and teaching for many years at many endodontic Continuing Education courses (Summer schools and other seasonal courses), jointly run by the University of Melbourne and Royal Dental Hospital.

He also produced instructional films and video showing endodontic techniques, at a time when this was regarded as cutting edge technology. Over many years he gave lectures, table clinics to all manner of dental groups and in many locations throughout Victoria and other parts of Australia, at a time when travel was much more difficult than it is today.

Effy was invited to lecture overseas on many occasions, including the United States, such was his reputation.

Effy contributed many articles and letters to various dental and medical journals in both English and German. These covered a vast range of topics, which illustrated both his interests in areas as diverse as: the use of corticosteroids and dental pain management (Melbourne and Australia became the ‘Ledermix’ capital of the world largely due to Effy’s interests); the importance of preservation of teeth; oral diagnosis and special techniques used therein; endodontics and general health issues. Effy was still writing letters to the editorial pages of journals on these and other topics until the last few years.

Probably more than any other individual in Melbourne, and possibly Australia, Effy promoted and advocated the use of rubber dam isolation for endodontics, the importance of sterile instruments and aseptic techniques, the usefulness of dry ice testing for pulpal diagnosis, and many other tips.

He had a special interest in the relationship between medical conditions and dentistry. In particular he engaged the medical profession in objective debate about such issues as focal infection. There was a time when prevailing medical opinion, promoted the extraction of many infected teeth because opinion felt that severe dental conditions were responsible for general health issues. Effy’s rigorous defence advocated for the retention of those teeth, which could be rendered healthy by more conservative and predictable means, such as endodontics and periodontics.

### *Organizational Contributions*

We take for granted the ongoing existence of dental organizations, but for each there had to be a beginning. There had to be a need, which had previously been unmet and a group of individuals with the foresight and drive to recognize this void and

generate sufficient interest to embark on the journey from the idea to the formal local society and thence to the state and then national levels. Effy has left his pioneering mark at all such organizational levels. He was instrumental in the formation of the Melbourne Endodontia Study Club in the early 1960s along with four or five like-minded dentists who met regularly to share knowledge and discuss issues of clinical concern. This eventually became the Australian Society of Endodontology, Inc., and which through its various state branches would go on to become the largest special interest group for general practitioners affiliated with the ADA. Effy became the foundation President of the ASE in 1967, and served on as a councillor until 1980. The history of how this happened makes for interesting reading and a fuller account is available in the official history: *The ASE. The First 25 years: 1967 to 1992. By F. Harty.*

Through his extensive friendships and contacts with overseas leaders in the endodontic field he was able to entice many notable international speakers to Australia. "Everyone knew Effy, and Effy knew everyone!"

From 1967 to 1970, Effy also helped produce, contributed to and edited "The Australian Endodontic Newsletter" which has now become "The Australian Endodontic Journal", and which is now indexed on Medline.

#### *ADA Involvement*

Effy also rendered significant service for the ADA by being a member of the Endodontic Materials and Instruments committee to the Australian Bureau Of Standards for over 10 years. He was also recognized for having completed 50 years continuous membership of the ADA.

The Alpha Omega Dental fraternity also benefited from Effy's involvement.

#### *Honours*

Effy has been recognized at various times for his significant contributions. The most significant ones include;

- Order Of Australia Medal OAM. (*Awarded 2004, For services to Dentistry and to the Jewish Community*)
- Honorary Life Membership of the Australian Society of Endodontology Inc. (The first person to be so honoured)
- Life Membership of the Australian and New Zealand Academy of Endodontists
- Honorary Fellowships of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, American College of Dentists, International College of Dentists

### *Personal life and Other Interests*

Effy was passionate about certain classical music, especially Mozart and certain lesser-known Jewish German composers. He maintained a lifelong interest in Jewish life and was an active member of his local congregation. Whilst a student at Melbourne University, he helped found the MU Jewish students society

### *Finale and Personal Recollections*

Effy, even as he aged, remained full of that youthful energy that only curiosity can bring. He did not dwell on personal health concerns. His legacy will extend far further than he could have imagined. He was intelligent *and* wise, yet in his presence you did not feel belittled. He was humble, yet always willing to challenge authority. He saw the bigger picture of the importance of retaining teeth to the patient and of relieving pain without having to necessarily resort to extraction. In other words he would see the problem from the patient's viewpoint. For Effy there was a difference between seeking the truth and accepting what suits or the *status quo*. If there was insufficient evidence to make a decision, he would acknowledge this, and seek further knowledge. To those many generations of students and dentists who heard him lecture with such passion against the prevailing attitudes to treatment of diseased teeth, who could forget his repeated calls for "A Royal Commission into Apicectomies"!

Who could forget, at the end of most Endodontic Society lectures, the way that Effy would always in a most courteous way, raise his hand and ask the chairman for a moment to proffer an opinion, or a humorous anecdote or a sage comment. We last had the pleasure of this in 2010, when Effy, although stooped and requiring the aid of a walking stick, still managed to attend the ASE VB meeting at University House and discuss the merits of antibiotic prophylaxis, using his personal health situation to illustrate a point in a very humorous way.

In committee meetings, when long-winded discussions without conclusions threatened, Effy would listen patiently and then identify the central problem and cut to the chase very quickly!

Effy would most probably be embarrassed by a tribute such as this, for above all he was more concerned about the future, rather than dwelling on past achievements.

His was a life of service and education and he will be greatly missed by the colleagues that knew him, and came under his influence. Those that never had the chance to meet him should speak to those that did.

*A classic epitaph for a classic man.*

“ To see a world in a grain of sand and heaven in a wild flower,

To hold infinity in the palm of your hand and eternity in an hour” *William Blake*

Effy certainly did see and did hold.

Vale.

Drs Gary Nervo, Phillippe Zimet and Ennio Rebellato



## **Tribute to Dr Peter Kaleski**

### **Peter Gordon Kaleski BDS (Syd), FICD, FADI, OAM**

26<sup>th</sup> December 1941 – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Peter was born in Sydney in December 1941 to Jess and Gordon Kaleski. He grew up in Strathfield and attended Trinity Grammar Junior School and later when the family moved to Warrawee he attended Sydney Grammar School for his senior education. After school Peter decided to study dentistry because it “combined engineering principles in the mouth while dealing with people.” Following graduation from the University of Sydney in 1964 he worked with John Kinross at Belmore who was a skilled mentor and became a close friend. Like so many Australian graduates of that period, Peter travelled to London where he worked in general practice for four wonderful years (as he later described the experience) in Kingston with Harry Davis, an Australian dentist working and living in the UK.

While at a party in London before returning to Sydney, Peter asked his Australian friends “Do you know any good birds back in Sydney?” Well, they did and Peter and Anne were married on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1970 forming a wonderful life-long partnership. Fortunately Peter married the right girl. Anne was an intelligent and amazingly energetic complement to Peter. She took on the management of a very successful practice, while also raising four delightful children John, Elizabeth, Anna, and Jane.

It was in 1971 Peter and Anne established their practice in Lindfield. Peter maintained a thriving general practice with an emphasis on restorative dentistry and endodontics. He could have chosen to specialize in either prosthodontics or endodontics but preferred to provide an overall service to his patients, many of whom became personal friends. Of particular note was his astute observation of the role that miss-directed occlusal forces play in the causation of dental and facial pain and pathology. This was and is of particular relevance to endodontics because Peter noted that occlusal pain maybe confused with pain of endodontic origin, resulting in unnecessary treatment with no resolution of the original symptoms.

This encouraged Peter to become involved in continuing education initially at the University of Sydney where he was a principal contributor for over twenty years. A gifted, inspired and inspiring teacher, Peter worked tirelessly to raise the standards of dentistry. One of his lasting legacies is the number of dentists he assisted to become better practitioners through courses he conducted throughout Australia and overseas. Peter was the eternal optimist and could energize a room with his knowledge and enthusiasm. He was always generous with his time for those seeking further knowledge.

For many years Peter hosted study clubs in his rooms to discuss difficult cases and invariably Peter had the answers.

Peter was a member of the Australian Society of Endodontology NSW Branch almost from its inception and served as President on two occasions as well as terms as Secretary and Treasurer. He is one of only five individuals awarded Honorary Life Membership of the NSW Branch and the only general practitioner so honored. He also served as Secretary of the Federal body of the Australian Society of Endodontology and was the driving force in running the Society of Occlusal Studies and the International Academy of Gnathology (Australian Section). Peter was one of the few Australians to be invited to become a member of the American Academy of Restorative Dentistry, and he and Anne regularly travelled to Chicago each February to attend their meetings. He was made a Fellow of both the International College of Dentists and the Academy of Dentistry International in recognition of his contributions to the dental profession.

Peter volunteered his time for over thirty years treating the intellectually handicapped at the Lorna Hodgkinson Sunshine Home and also worked with the Aboriginal children of Central Australia. He received an OAM for his services to Dentistry and the community in 2006.

Peter loved life, Anne, his children, grandchildren, friends, dentistry and his beautiful garden, where many dental functions have been held over the years. Walking around the garden now, without him, is a very moving experience. An amazing man, those of us lucky enough to have been his friend will always love him. We have indeed had our lives enriched by his presence and inspiration. Vale dear friend.

Steven Cohn, David Percy and Barry Trumper