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Newsletter

Issue Number 23

Semester 1, 2006



## PORTRAIT UNVEILING

On the 19 May 2006, the Faculty of Pharmacy held the official unveiling of a commissioned portrait of Professor Tom Watson.

Professor Watson was one of the first recipients of the Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Pharmacy at the University in 1956. He then joined the Department as a lecturer, before becoming Head of the Department of Pharmacy in 1967.

He remained at the helm of the Department for many years, steering its transition into the modern day. Indeed, he was the first person to introduce Mass Spectrometry to the



Professor Iqbal Ramzan and Professor T. R (Tom) Watson.

*Photograph by Mr Kevin Murrant*

## PHARMACY EDUCATION UNIT

The Faculty has the first Pharmacy Education Unit in Australia. Recently formed, the team consists of Associate Professor Greg Ryan - Director and Jim Woulfe - Educational Designer.

The PEU's current tasks are to: contribute to the Faculty curriculum review; trial, and conduct research into additional modes of delivery (eg: lectures online, video-conferencing); support distance learning and off-campus initiatives; streamline WebCT processes, and prepare the Faculty for the University-wide upgrade to WebCT Campus Edition 6.1; co-ordinate WebCT administrative tasks; provide ongoing support for academics in the use of educational technology tools; and monitor, investigate and where appropriate trial new developments in educational technology.

*By Jim Woulfe*



Professor Tom Watson with friends and colleagues in the Thomas R. Watson Mass Spectrometry Lab.

*Photograph by Mr Kevin Murrant*

Faculty and his efforts were also recognised during the ceremony by the re-naming of the Mass Spectrometry Laboratory in his honour.

The event was attended by many former colleagues, students and friends, reflecting the respect and affection with which he is regarded. The portrait was painted by artist Robyn Ross and is now displayed in the Faculty Common Room in the Pharmacy Building.

Thank you to all those who joined us on this special occasion to make it such a success.

## VISITORS TO THE FACULTY

On 2nd May 2006 the President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Kos Sclavos, visited the Faculty. Sydney University graduates constitute the greater proportion of members of the Pharmacy Guild, and make up around 75% of registered pharmacists in NSW. During his visit, Mr Sclavos took the opportunity to talk to students, addressing some of the greater myths of the PBS and reassuring them of the bright future of Pharmacy. He stressed the importance of higher qualifications and the need to recognise the efforts of Advanced (Honours) and PhD students by possibly introducing shorter supervised practice periods for these students prior to registration. Mr Sclavos readily engaged with students, listening to their ideas and sharing his own experiences in retail pharmacy.

Mr Sclavos then took time to visit the research and teaching facilities in the Faculty, and hear about the various research projects currently underway. This included the work of more than 20 PhD and masters students, as well as 15 staff members, funded by grants totaling more than \$5 million from the third Guild-Government Agreement. Mr Sclavos was impressed by the diversity of research and expertise in the Faculty, and said that the standing of Pharmacy professionals is dependent not only on training, but on research, to educate future advanced specialist practitioners and academics expert in pharmaceutical science and pharmacy practice. He added that by initiating projects to research the practicalities of many proposed aspects of pharmacy practice, the University plays an important role in securing funding and developing services that may be offered by pharmacists in the future.

Collaborative projects, both at the national and international levels were also presented, such as the Community Pharmacy Research Centre, which is coordinated at the University of Sydney and has nodes in eight other academic pharmacy units across Australia. As part of his visit, Mr Sclavos also met with members of the Pharmacy Practice Foundation to discuss the services provided by the foundation and new initiatives it has achieved.

Mr Sclavos said that with the growth of community pharmacy to involve an increasing number of areas, it is important to educate students in this wide range of subjects. He added that he looks forward to successful collaborations with Sydney University in the future.



(Left to right) Dr Ines Krass, Discipline Head, Pharmacy Practice; Charlie Benrimoj, Professor of Pharmacy and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Planning); Mr Kos Sclavos, President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia; Prof. Carol Armour, Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research); Prof. Iqbal Ramzan, Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy.

*Photograph taken by Mr Adrian Dreyer*

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Prof Jo-anne Brien** - invited to join the Southeast Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service Drug Committee.

**Ms Erica Sainsbury** - received an Excellence in Teaching Award for teaching concepts in pharmacy.

**Ms Rosalind Dey** - received an Excellence in Teaching Award for teaching support in Pharmacotherapeutics.

**Mr Mark Waller** - received an Excellence in Teaching Award for teaching support for Medicinal Chemistry.

**Mr Fred Wong** - received an Excellence in Teaching Award for laboratory support for Medicinal Chemistry.

**Beata Bajorek, Margaret Duguid, Eunice Chan, Tim Garrett, Ann Hay and Maggie Gibson** - nominated as the Baxter 2005 NSW Health Award Finalist for *"Improving the accuracy of the discharge medication information using an electronic discharge referral system"*.

**Kim Chan & Associates** - Innovation Challenge 2005 Grand Prize winner for PharmaScint, a business plan for a medical imaging service company that intends to provide clinical imaging trial, data management and analysis solutions to the pharmaceutical industry.

**Iman Basheti** - finalist for her oral presentation at the ASCEPT-APSA 2005 Joint Conference, received best poster for her presentation at the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting and was accepted for a poster presentation at the ASMR meeting.

**David Maxwell** - received the best pharmacy practice oral presentation at the Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association.

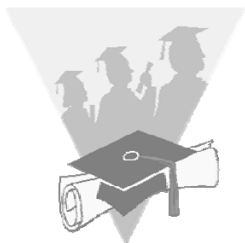
**Alison Roberts** - received a special commendation for her oral presentation at the Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association.

**Cassandra Slader** - finalist for her poster at the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting.

**Erdahl Teber** - received a poster prize for his poster entitled *"Alternate conformational analysis of protein structures from x-ray crystallography"* at Molecular Modeling 2006.

**Karen Tsang** - received the Rakesh Kumar prize for best student presentation at the Mutagenesis and Experimental Pathology Society of Australasia Conference.

**Tina Razmovski** - Congratulations to Tina and her husband Jim who were blessed with their first child on 1 February, a baby boy named Akira James Naumovski.



## SUMMER VACATION SCHOLARSHIPS

For the first time in the summer of 2005-2006, the Faculty offered Summer Vacation Scholarships, giving students the opportunity to participate in research projects with members of the academic staff.

There were 38 applicants with 8 being selected to participate in the program. Congratulations to:

Jared Brown  
Natasa Gisev  
Susan Hoe  
Ali Khalil  
Grace Leung  
Samir Nuboja  
Man Kong Adrian Sung  
Jade Wei

## GRADUATION 2006

On 24 March the Great Hall saw the graduation of the largest number of potential pharmacists since the introduction of the pharmacy degree in 1960. Graduates included both undergraduate students and Master of Pharmacy students.

The Master of Pharmacy began in 2004 and is a 2 year coursework program for students who already hold a University degree.



Professor Charlie Benrimoj with PhD students he supervised (from left) Fiona Kelly, Alison Roberts and Rebekah Moles.



(Left to right) Celina Seeto, Graduate Abd Qawasmeh and Dr Bandana Saini.

In addition, some of the Faculty's postgraduate research students also graduated with Graduate Diploma, Master and Doctor of Philosophy degrees.

The graduation was attended by the Chief Executive Officer of the National Prescribing Service, Dr Lynn Weekes. Dr Weekes discussed the importance of the diverse array of skills found in today's Pharmacy graduates, particularly the increased emphasis on patient-pharmacist communication. She also highlighted the need to understand the influences of cultural context in patients in multicultural Australia. Congratulations to all of the graduates.

## MASTER OF PHARMACY PRECEPTORS

The Faculty would like to thank all of the pharmacy preceptors who took Master of Pharmacy students for Clinical Residency 1 in January-March 2006:

Acland Court Pharmacy  
Ashfield Chemworld Chemist  
Atallah's Pharmacy  
Australian Pharmacy  
Blacktown Hospital  
Boland & Steel Amcal Chemist  
Bonnyrigg Pharmacy  
Brook's Pharmacy  
Campbelltown Hospital  
Cantebury Hospital  
Carillon Medical Centre Pharmacy  
Centre Pharmacy  
Chemist Warehouse

Chemworld Seven Hills  
Concord Hospital  
Curry Chemist  
Fairfield Hospital  
Ford's Pharmacy  
Fresh Therapeutics Pharmacy  
Harrison's Pharmacy Broadway  
Harrison's Pharmacy Ashfield  
Hornsby Hospital  
Hudspeth Pharmacy  
Kalafs Pharmacy  
Kogarah All Saints Pharmacy  
Littles Pharmacy  
Milton Pharmacy  
Miranda Day/Night Pharmacy  
Muller's Pharmacy  
Narellan Chemmart Pharmacy  
Pharmacy Outlet

Priceline Pharmacy  
Prince of Wales Hospital  
Riverwood Family Chemist  
Rodney's Pharmacy  
Rosebery Pharmacy  
Royal North Shore Hospital  
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital  
Soul Pattinson Chemist Woodcroft  
St Vincent's Hospital  
Sutherland Hospital  
Terry White Chemist Miranda  
The Chemist at Glebe  
The Children's Hospital Westmead  
Villawood Pharmacy  
Viva Pharmacy  
Warriewood Medical Centre  
Pharmacy  
Wollongong Hospital  
*By Beata Bajorek*

## PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

**Associate Professor Iqbal Ramzan** - Dean of Pharmacy, has been conferred the title of Professor during his tenure as Dean; his contribution to the support of the Faculty and his willingness to take on leadership have been rewarded. Congratulations Professor Ramzan. Following on from a major University restructure by the Vice-Chancellor, Pharmacy Academics have been appointed in the new senior administrative structure:

**Professor Charlie Benrimoj** - was our Foundation Dean and became Assistant Pro-Vice-Chancellor in the College of Health Sciences in 2005. He is now Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Planning). Well done Charlie.

**Professor Carol Armour** - has also been appointed in the new executive structure; she is Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research). This is due recognition for her fine track record in research and her significant contribution to the NMHRC over the past 2 years as a member of the NHMRC Research Committee and Chair of the Training Awards Committee. Congratulations Carol.

We are very proud to have 2 academics from the Faculty of Pharmacy assuming these prominent roles in the senior University management.

**Professor Charlie Benrimoj** - Congratulations also to Charlie on being made a fellow of the International Pharmaceutical Federation.

**Professor Carol Armour** - Congratulations also to Carol on being made a fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

**Professor Andrew McLachlan** - has been appointed the new Chair of Pharmacy (Aged Care) based at Concord Repatriation General Hospital and the Centre for Education and Research on Ageing. Congratulations Andrew.

**Dr Daniela Traini** - will replace Dr Kylie Williams as the academic coordinator for the Master of Pharmacy course. We would like to thank Kylie for all her effort and hard work over the past 2 years, and Daniela for taking on this role in 2006.

**Dr Alaina Ammit** - will replace Professor Michael Murray as the Associate Dean (Research). Thank you to Michael for his efforts and to Alaina for taking on this role in 2006. The new Research Committee for 2006 consists of:

Dr Alaina Ammit (Chair)

Dr Sinthia Bosnic-Anticevich (Pharmacy Practice)

Dr Nenad Petrovic (Pharmaceutics)

Dr Daniel Sze (Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Chair of the Research-only Academic Sub-committee)

Dr Mary Collins (Associate Dean of Postgraduate Studies)

Assisted by Sean Goodwin (Research Services Officer).



## FACULTY WELCOME

The Faculty would like to welcome the following new staff and students:

**Ms Carroll Graham** - Faculty Manager  
**Mr Paul Jones** - Technical Services Manager

**Dr Jackie Knox** - Director of the Quality Care Pharmacy Support Centre

**Mr Jim Woulfe** - Educational Designer, Pharmacy Education Unit

**Ms Moran Baillie** - Administrative Services Office (Human Resources and Facilities)

**Mr Sean Goodwin** - Research Services Officer

**Ms Rebecca Liu** - Administrative Assistant for Pharmacy Practice

**Ms Julna Storey** - Administrative Assistant for Pharmaceutical Chemistry

**Mr Henora Tanto** - Technical Officer (IT)

**Maung Maung Soe** - Technical Officer in the Dispensing Lab

**Padmaja Dhanvate** - Technical Officer

**Ms Judi Marden** - Drug and Alcohol Practitioner Teacher

**Ms Jodi Allen** - Research Assistant in Pharmaceutical Chemistry, working under the supervision of Dr Alaina Ammit

**Mr Dimitru Pavel** - working with Dr Dai Hibbs

**Ms Abeer Abdelhalim** - PhD student under the supervision of Dr Mary Collins

**Min Bu** - Masters student under the supervision of Dr Bret Church

**Mr Paul Bu** - Masters student under the supervision of Dr Bret Church

**Naghmeh Jabarizadekivi** - Masters student under the supervision of Dr Mano Chetty

**Ms Daniela Karadzovska** - PhD student

**Ms Mon Sun (Sunny) Kim** - PhD student under the supervision of Professor Basil Roufogalis and Dr Yuhao Li

**Ms Sophie Lena-Stockler** - PhD student under the supervision of Professor Andrew McLachlan

**Ms Kristin Isabel Miller** - PhD Student

**Ms Pradnya Panvelkar** - PhD student under the supervision of Professor Carol Armour and Dr Bandana Saini

**Ms Bhagwant Kaur Sekhon** - Masters student under the supervision of Dr Daniel Sze

## FACULTY AWARDS NIGHT



Faculty Awards Night, MacLaurin Hall.  
*Photograph by Mr Kevin Murrant.*

On 18 May the Faculty held its second annual Awards Night in MacLaurin Hall, attended by University and Faculty staff, students, family and friends. The evening was a wonderful opportunity for the Faculty to acknowledge and congratulate staff and students on their efforts throughout 2005. Over the course of the evening, prizes were awarded to undergraduate and postgraduate students for their outstanding academic achievements, and staff members for their excellence in teaching. Chancellor, Justice Kim

Santow attended the evening and gave a speech congratulating the recipients while Professor Bruce Sutton, Chair of the Academic Board presented the certificates. The Faculty proudly acknowledges the sponsors of the prizes and scholarships: the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (NSW Branch), the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (NSW), Amgen Australia, Guild Insurance, Blackmores and Mc-Graw Hill Higher Education. Congratulations to all of the award recipients.

Fred Wong (centre), who received an excellence in teaching award, with Dr Paul Young and Dr Bret Church.  
*Photograph by Mr Kevin Murrant.*



## NEW GRANTS

The Faculty would like to congratulate the following academics on their grant success:

**Beata Bajorek** - *“Optimising the utilisation of antithrombotic therapy in elderly patients: development and evaluation of a Computerised Antithrombotic Risk Assessment Tool (CART)”*.

**Beata Bajorek and Margaret Duguid** - *“Maintaining continuity of care for warfarinised patients: an intensive pharmacy-based post-discharge hospital-to-home intervention (Pilot study)”*. Sanofi-Aventis 2005 Continuum of Care Research Grant, \$10,000 (SHPA Research Developments and Grants Scheme).

**Mano Chetty** - Grant of approximately \$12,000 from the Rebecca L. Cooper Foundation.

**Dai Hibbs** - Sesqi R&D Grant.

**Andrew McLachlan, Catherine Raffaele, Jo-anne Brien, George Li and Nerida Cole** - *“Sharing postgraduate courses across CHS”*. \$28,600 (TIF Grant).

**Nenad Petrovic and Michael Murray** - *“Epoxygenase-derived eicosanoids as endogenous anti-inflammatory and hypoxia-reperfusion protective agents in vasculature”*. \$47,000 for 1 year (University of Sydney Research and Development Grant).

**Basil Roufogalis, Yuhao Li and George Li** - *“Panax notoginseng for the management of dietary hyperlipidaemia and diabetes”*. \$158,000 (Klein Research Institute Ltd).

**Professor Basil Roufogalis and Van Hoan Tran** - *“Development of new analgesic agents based on desensitisation of the TRPV1 pain receptor”*. \$47,859 (Sesqui R&D Grant).

**Daniel Sze** - *“Identification and characterisation of cancer stem cells in myeloma”*. \$50,000 (University of Sydney Cancer Research Fund).

**Daniel Sze and George Li** - received the following support as co-principal investigators with colleagues from China:

*“Investigation of the clinically significant expanded T cell clones in myeloma and waldenstroms”*. Chinese RMB \$200,000 for 3 years (Chang Zheng Hospital, The Second Military Medical University Cancer Fund).

*“Role of Ghrelin in the synergistic use of thalidomide and Chinese herbal medicines in anti-myeloma therapy”*. Chinese RMB \$30,000 (Sun-Yat-Sen University and Australian-China Fund).

**Sue Taylor** - obtained grants through the Rural Health Support, Education and Training (RHSET) Program funded by the Department of Health and Aging:

\$137,000 for training pharmacists to work with Aboriginal Health Workers (with Lindy Swain).

\$140,000 split between Monash, University of Tasmania and CSU to make the Australian Pharmacy Preceptor Education Program suitable for use by other Allied Health Professionals.

**Daniela Traini, Erica Sainsbury, Paul Young and Hak-Kim Chan** - *“An expert database to promote collaboration”*. \$15,100 (TIF Grant).

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**H. Alkhouri, D. Lalor, Q. Ge, C. Armour and J.M. Hughes** - "CXCL 10 release by asthmatic and non-asthmatic airway smooth muscle is inhibited by ciglitizone". Poster presented by Hatem Alkhori at the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting.

**B. Bajorek, M. Duguid and C. Armour** - "Bridging the gap between hospital pharmacy practice and academia: the role of the clinical academic pharmacist within the Northern Sydney Central Coast Health Service". Presented at the Hospital Pharmacists of Australia Federal Conference.

**B. Bajorek, E. Chan, M. Duguid, T. Garrett, S. Loprest, T. Ronald, A. Hay, A. Kelly and M. Gibson** - "Detecting errors on discharge prescriptions: a comparison of the electronic discharge referral system (eDRS with the traditional system". Presented at the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia Federal Conference.

**B. Bajorek, E. Pettigrew and R. O'Doherty** - "Utilisation of meropenem at Royal North Shore Hospital: an audit of usage and compliance with local prescribing guidelines". Presented at the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia Federal Conference.

**B. Bajorek and A. Khoo** - *Pharmacists prescribing: a role in the management of anticoagulation*". Presented at the Royal North Shore Hospital, University of Technology and University of Sydney Annual Scientific Meeting.

**B. Bajorek and L. Yau** - "Audit of the management of over-anticoagulation at Royal North Shore Hospital". Presented at the Royal North Shore Hospital, University of Technology and University of Sydney Annual Scientific Meeting.

**I. Basheti, H. Reddell C. Armour, S. Bosnic-Anticevich** - "The impact of correcting inhaler technique: improved asthma outcomes with a simple intervention by community pharmacists". Presented by Iman Basheti at the ASCEPT-APSA 2005 Joint Conference and the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting. Presented by Helen Reddel at the American Thoracic Society International Conference.

**J.E. Brien, A.A. Bennett and P.S. MacDonald** - "The specialist cardiovascular pharmacist in chronic heart disease:

*an Australian perspective*". Presented at the European Society for Clinical Pharmacy. Vilnius, Lithuania, May 2006.

**J.E. Brien, A.A. Bennett and P.S. MacDonald** - "Optimising medication management in cardiac patients: the impact of a specialist pharmacist". Presented at the Heart Foundation Conference and Scientific Meeting, Sydney, March 2006.

**J.E. Brien, G. Gallego and S. Taylor** - "Paying for medicines used in hospitals in Australia". Presented at the Federation Internationale Pharmaceutique, Cairo, Nov 2005.

**B. Chaar** - "The SHPA Code of Ethics". Presented by Betty Chaar at the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia Conference.

**W.B Church, N.A. Nadvi, L.K. Lee and E. Teber** - "Access to the structures of proteins: how well are we served?". Presented by W. Bret Church at the 10th Meeting of the Molecular Modellers.

**W.B. Church, H.W. Lee, H.C. Lee and E. Teber** - "Building a protein in a membrane". Conference abstract: 31st Lorne Conference on Protein Structure and Function.

**W. B. Church, G. Lynch, J. Kong, V. Wasinger, J. Sullivan and M. Guilhaus** - "Applied proteomic studies for the comparison of recombinant and plasma-derived therapeutic proteins". Conference abstract: 11th Proteomics Symposium of the Australasian Proteomics Society.

**J.M. Hughes, A. Sutcliffe, D. Kaur, S. Page, L. Woodman, M. Baraket, A. Wardlaw, P. Bradding, C. Armour, C. Brightling** - "TH2 cytokine stimulated asthmatic ASM induces mast cell chemotaxis". Talk presented by J. Margaret Hughes at the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting.

**J.M. Hughes, H. Alkouri, E. Chen, Y. Alrashdan, Q. Ge, C. Armour, S. Henness, A.J. Ammit** - "Mapk involvement in CXCL 10 production by asthmatic and non-asthmatic airway smooth muscle". Presented by J. Margaret Hughes at the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting.

**I. Krass** - "Specialised care models for type 2 diabetics in the community pharmacy". Presented by Ines Krass at the Scientific Education Seminar, Point of Care Testing Update, Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists.

## FACULTY CHAIRS

The Pharmacy Practice Foundation (PPF) was established in 1978 to assist in the development of best practice in retail pharmacy, and funds a number of Chairs, including the Chair of Pharmacy Practice and the Chair of Clinical Pharmacy at St Vincent's Hospital. Two new chairs have also been established, in response to changes at the national level.

The first of these is the Chair of Pharmacy (Aged Care), the first of its kind in Australia, which seeks to address the changing needs of our aging community. Prof. Andrew McLachlan was recently appointed to this position, due to his extensive background in the care of elderly patients and the critically ill. Andrew was also an appointee of the Minister of Health and Aging to the Pharmaceutical Health and Rational Use of Medicines (PHARM) Committee in 2003. The PPF was also successful at the end of 2005 in negotiating funding from Pfixer Consumer Healthcare for a new Chair—the Chair of Pharmacy Management. "A few years ago the PPF recognised the vulnerability of Pharmacy's new profession to poor retail practice and lack of formal management skills" said Mr Warwick Plunkett, President of the PPF. Internationally, few pharmacy schools fully prepare their students for the management side of pharmacy. Therefore, this unique position was created to equip students with the business tools necessary for a successful future, as well as bringing postgraduate education in this area to practicing pharmacists.



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(continued on page 8)

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## STUDENT PROFILE

The Blackmores Prize for Excellence in Herbal Medicines in 2006 was awarded to Mr Yanfei Qi, an international student from China. Mr Yanfei Qi graduated with the Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Engineering from Ji Lin University, ranked top 8 in China. He has a solid background and research training in chemistry, biology and pharmacy in a modern laboratory in China. In 2005, he chose the University of Sydney, for further development for his career. He joined a Master Coursework program about Herbal Medicines in the Faculty of Pharmacy, where he learnt the theory, different traditional medical systems, modern research and clinical application of complementary medicines. He was hard working with a good attitude to learn. He is now a part time Research Associate in the Faculty and will soon commence his research as a Master of Herbal Medicines Honours student to study the impact of Chinese medicines on lipid and sugar metabolism. Mr Qi is confident that his future research will be advanced biomedical research and meaningful for modernisation and standardisation of natural medicines in the future.

*By Dr George Li, Herbal Medicines Coordinator*



Award receiver Mr Yanfei Qi (centre) with Chancellor Justice Santow, Professor Iqbal Ramzan, Mr Phil Daffy Blackmores Technical Manager, Dr George Li Herbal Medicines Coordinator and other supporters.

*Photograph by Mr Kevin Murrant*

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