

## NCPO Attends Regional Educators Meeting



*A photo of delegates attending the Prosthetic and Orthotic Strategic Schools Meeting. NCPO head Rod Cooper is on the back row, third from right.*

The NCPO was privileged to attend the Prosthetic and Orthotic Strategic Schools Meeting held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia during September. The meeting featured delegates from educational institutions in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, Pakistan, Cambodia, Australia, Hong Kong and Malaysia as well as representatives from the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics and the Nippon Foundation.

The meeting was hosted by the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics and delegates were funded by the Japanese Nippon Foundation, a Non Government Organisation that plays a major role in financing P&O education and development in the Asian region.

“The meeting was a fantastic chance to meet with other education providers in the region and gain a deeper understanding of each others programs” commented NCPO delegate Mr Rod Cooper. “We compared our programs and educational objectives as well as national clinical practices. I believe that this, and future meetings of the group, should lead to further positive collaboration in education in our region”.

The next meeting of this group is scheduled for November 2006 to be held in Sri Lanka.



The NCPO News would like to wish all our readers  
a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season



## Japanese Students Visit the NCPO

In what has become an annual event, third year students and staff from the Kobe College of Medical Welfare P & O course spent a week visiting the NCPO in September.

Kobe students were kept busy with observations of NCPO classes, including transtibial prosthetics, above knee orthotics and a CAD CAM presentation. They also participated in some fracture management practicals, anatomy practicals and joint Kobe/NCPO research presentations.

Students were able to visit an Australian P & O clinic at the Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre, where they were introduced to our treatment pathways for the rehabilitation of amputees and clients with musculoskeletal disorders.

On the last day of their visit they were shown a clinical presentation on the management of a patient with PFFD by NCPO lecturer Les Barnes.



As well as the serious stuff, the Kobe students enjoyed outings to the Bundoorra Wildlife Park, Bar Night and dinner with the NCPO students, two lunchtime BBQs with NCPO staff and students as well as a chance to do some shopping and a trip to the Crown Casino.

Kobe College Head Mr Mitsuhiro Uchida thanked the NCPO for our hospitality and another successful visit. He said: "Our students enjoyed their visit to the NCPO again very much this year. It is a great opportunity for them to gain a wider international perspective of prosthetics and orthotics".

The NCPO would like to thank Austin Health and Royal Talbot for generously donating their time and the staff and students of the NCPO for their enthusiasm and cooperation in making the visit a success. Special thanks to Student President Narelle Cook and her many assistants for coordinating the social components of the visit.



*A performance, (left) and traditional wrestling, (right) featured during a lunchtime BBQ*

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## 2005 Student Research Symposium

The Annual Student Research Symposium was held on October 31, 2005. Current students presented the results of their honours research and Independent Study Projects in the symposium. Five honours projects and five third year projects were presented.

Again, about half of the third year students completed a series of Clinical Challenges delivered in a Web-assisted format instead of undertaking a research or development project. Only students who completed a research or development project presented their work during the symposium.

A number of prosthetists and orthotists from local facilities attended at least part of the Symposium. We appreciate the contribution these professionals made to the discussion during question time and during breaks in proceedings. We also appreciate the support of P&O facilities in making time available for their staff to attend

the Symposium.

A closing reception was generously sponsored by Reis Orthopaedic and Surgical Services. We gratefully acknowledge Helmuth and Sue Reis for their support of the social aspect of our Symposium over the past six years.

A list of the topics, investigators and supervisors is available on the NCPO web site ([www.latrobe.edu.au/ncpo/docs/seminar.html](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/ncpo/docs/seminar.html)). Anyone who is interested in additional information about any of the topics should contact the NCPO.

The Symposium has established itself as a day of excellent P&O research. The next Student Research Symposium will be held on Monday, October 30, 2006. Prosthetists, orthotists and professionals in related areas are welcome to attend.



## NCPO at the Sydney ISPO 2005 ASM

In early November, the NCPO was well represented at the ISPO Australia Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Sydney. Staff members Les Barnes, Tim Bach, Rod Cooper, Michael Dillon, Margaret Hodge and Wes Pryor attended the meeting, as well as 20 NCPO undergraduate and postgraduate students. Nine free papers and one poster were presented by NCPO staff and/or students, one NCPO paper received a prize, and NCPO staff chaired some sessions of the meeting.

The George Carter New Investigator Prize was awarded to NCPO Honours student Renée Downie, for her paper: "Development of an instrument to explore the behavioural role of the Australian prosthetist in clinical practice". The paper was co-authored by Renée's honours supervisors NCPO Lecturer Margaret Hodge and La Trobe University School of Public Health Professor Greg Murphy.

Dr Richard Baker was the keynote speaker at the ASM. Dr Baker is an expert in clinical gait analysis, manages the gait laboratory at the Royal Children's Hospital and is leader of a Gait Research Centre, Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne. He provided a fascinating keynote address about interpretation and application of gait data in clinical practice. Four NCPO staff co-presented the Gait workshop with Dr Baker, La Trobe University Biomechanist David Orr and University of Sydney Biomechanist Damien O'Meara.

Three NCPO staff members were heavily involved in ISPO Australia business activities during the meeting. Margaret Hodge was the President of ISPO Australia, Wes Pryor is the Secretary and Michael Dillon is Chair of the Science and Education Committee. As the executive is made up of people from most Australian states and territories it usually meets via teleconferencing. The



*NCPO Honours student Renée Downie is presented with her prize by ISPO Australia Chairman Margaret Hodge*

ASM provided an opportunity for face-to-face meetings of the executive and sub-committees. NCPO staff also participated in AOPA events during the meeting.

In addition to working at the ASM, NCPO staff welcomed the chance to discuss issues with various speakers and delegates and to develop valuable links with the profession.

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## Quality Supervision Programme 2006

The Foundation for Quality Supervision, made up of staff from La Trobe University, Deakin University and Monash University, have provided an annual course for clinical supervisors for many years.

Early in 2005, the course planning group reviewed the programme and are undertaking significant course revisions during the remainder of 2005 and early 2006.

This review coincides with the release of their new book: *Transforming Practice through Clinical Education, Professional Supervision and Mentoring* (2005) edited by Miranda Rose and Dawn Best with contributions from the QS team.

In 2006, the course will be run twice in the second half of the year. One version will be presented over three consecutive Fridays: 30th June, 7th and 14th July. A second, 'block' version will be held from Wednesday-Friday, 19th – 21st July.

Information about the course, including registration details, will be available to all providers of clinical education supervision in March 2006.

For more details or further information contact: NCPO Lecturer Margaret Hodge, phone 03 9479 5778.



## Call Goes Out for NCPO Volunteers

The NCPO transtibial prosthetic program concluded with a lunch for the volunteer patients who came in to assist students with their studies.

NCPO students thanked the volunteers by organising a BBQ lunch. Staff, students and volunteers reflected on another successful program and looked forward to meeting again in 2006.

The NCPO relies on groups of volunteers who allow students to make devices for them as a part of our clinical teaching program.

People who participate are able to volunteer their time to come in and be cast for devices. They then return for fittings and the student made devices are assessed.

We are constantly looking for more volunteers to support this vital part of P & O education. Without the people who donate their time, students would not be able to practice vital skills. Things like relating to clients, assessments of real pathologies and observation of actual disorders would be lost to the NCPO program.

Students appreciate applying the skills they learn in theory classes to real people.

If you wear a prosthesis or orthosis and would have the time to volunteer, please contact the NCPO.



*Volunteer Ed Wearing chats to transtibial prosthetics students*

We are looking for more transfemoral and lower limb orthotic volunteers for semester 1, 2006, which begins in March.

Even if you can only attend for a few days in the semester, we would like to hear from you.

If you want more information about our volunteer program, or want to volunteer, please call the Health Sciences Clinic on 9479 5831.

*From left: Volunteers Graeme Pickering, Tony Bartlett, NCPO Lecturer Michael Dillon and volunteer Brian Roast enjoy a BBQ lunch organised by 2nd year students*

## Update on Clinical Education

2nd year students have begun their 3 week placement blocks. Block 1 was completed on 2nd December. Block 2 begins on the 5th of December.

4th year placements for 2006 are currently being finalised and facilities will be notified in the next few weeks.

Supervisors are reminded that the clinical education guidelines are available from the NCPO homepage or by request.

Anthony Francis and Michael Dillon have been co-

ordinating clinical education this year. Kaisha Gurry will be returning in the new year and will resume her role as clinical education co-ordinator. We would like to thank all the supervisors and facilities for their time and effort in assisting with this valuable component of the students education.

We also welcome any feedback regarding the clinical education subject. Please feel free to contact Anthony Francis on 9479 5864 or [a.francis@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:a.francis@latrobe.edu.au) if you have any comments or questions.



# October Graduation Ceremony



*The NCPO graduates who attended the October ceremony*

The La Trobe University Faculty of Health Sciences Semester Two Graduation Ceremony took place on Friday 7th October. Sixteen prosthetics and orthotics students were awarded their Bachelors degrees and another four graduates had their degrees confirmed in absentia. The group included graduates of the Japanese upgrade program, national and international graduates

completing the three and a half year program and a graduate of the Australian diploma upgrade program. The NCPO would like to congratulate all of these students on receiving their awards and wish them success in their professional careers.

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## Amputee Groups Meet at the NCPO

In November the NCPO hosted a meeting of representatives from Amputees United Australia (AUA) as part of their annual national meeting. The groups that participated were:

- AUA President, Kerry Whittle
- Limbs 4 Life - Melbourne
- Amputee Support Group - Queensland
- Tasmanian Amputee Society
- Amputees In Action - WA
- Paraquad - Queensland

The group took a tour of the NCPO building and were presented with a lecture covering current teaching and related activities. An informal lunch following the presentation also provided opportunities for the group to ask questions about P&O training and service deliv-

ery. All really enjoyed the day and were grateful to Rod Cooper and the NCPO for hosting a successful meeting.

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