I think everyone is looking forward to the next two weeks of mid-semester break. For the teaching staff and students there is a spell from the usual lecture-lab-meetings routine and a perhaps a chance to catch up on some of those 'semi-urgent' duties that had been shuffled to the bottom of the priority pile. Honours year students will no doubt be feeling the pressure building up as they enter the project write-up phase of their year's work. The 3rd floor and cleaning staff will certainly appreciate the pause in laboratory class preparations and clean-up. It's been a busy (and so far very successful) year for the department, with new courses to introduce and old ones to up-date. This week Micro-News profiles Julie Mackenzie and in ‘Did You Know?’ Bruce Todd introduces the topic of First Aid.

**Micro-News Flashes**

* August 15. Just to remind us that he is still thinking about us, Jim Kalmakoff has sent a message from the Lakeland Hotel, Queenstown “by modem via the ARA system from PowerBook.” [Who remembers the good old days when people just sent postcards?]. Jim's message is “So far we have had a relaxing time just blobbing around Queenstown.” We will anxiously await further updates.

* Racheal has made a good recovery from her visit to the dentist last week and what's more, she still seems just as wise as ever!

**Happy Birthday**

Kristyn Mitchell (3rd year class) August 23.
Ngaire Chinn 23 August
Graeme Jarvis 24 August
Lynley Nancekivill 24 August
Julie Mackenzie 28 August

**News Hounds**

8th Floor - Racheal Carnahan
7th Floor - Terry Maguire and Els Maas
6th Floor - Rachel Elliot
5th Floor - John Tagg
4th Floor - Glenn Buchan and Barbara Clark
3rd Floor - Megan Spencer
3rd year class reps - Matt Bismark and Kristyn Mitchell
Ground Floor - Judith Bateup
Quote of the Week
Pharmacy-3 student (identity protected) to Mike:

"Actually, it's quite good, I can help my flatmate with her Micro.... What do you mean, "What's she reading"?... Oh no, she's doing Medicine... But she hasn't saved enough box-tops yet." [The implication being that one could obtain the degree in exchange for sending in a certain number of coupons from (say) breakfast cereal boxes].

Recent Publications


High lipid wastes are an important pollution problem for New Zealand. Little is known about amount, lipid composition and microbial degradation of these problem wastes. This paper presents a state of the art summary of the problem and the recent achievements in the lipid degradation work at the Waste Technology Research Centre.

- J H Thiele


This is another nice piece of work done by Ralph Jack, initiated during his PhD in this Department and completed while working as a post-doc in Bonn and Würzburg, Germany. Single channel conductance measurements in artificial planar membranes treated with SA-FF22 demonstrated formation of pores approximately 0.5 nm diameter. It was suggested that death of affected cells was brought about by membrane-potential disruption.

- John Tagg

Plunket Trophy
The 8th floor lunch committee has awarded the 1994 Plunket Trophy for Best Bonny Micro-News Baby to Clive Ronson. The committee, unanimous in its decision, was pleasantly surprised by the high standard of entries this year. Best Dressed Small Person award went to Jurgen Thiele, Cute lips cup to Sandy Smith and special prize to Jim Kalmakoff for being the only child with a bucket on its head.

The committee looks forward to being invited to judge this competition again next year.

"We know there are more baby photos lurking in the homes of Microbiology staff members" said a spokesperson.

A Letter from Boston

Viv Pybus has sent a characteristically newsy letter conveying her first impressions of Boston. En route they spent a couple of weeks with Nic's family in England. A highlight there was a 'terribly, terribly English' picnic evening at a big National Trust Estate.

They both appear to be adjusting well to the Boston life-style. Nic has already been checking out the local wildlife and Viv the shops.

The warmer Boston weather has rekindled memories of Nelson days when Viv worked at the Cawthron Institute. They have found a suitable appartment and Viv was just about to start work at the Channing Laboratories. Her special observation for Clive was that they provided lunches as an incentive for people to attend Journal Club!
BRING OUT YOUR DEAD

As part of the ongoing housekeeping program, I am encouraging a complete purge of dead equipment and other flotsam and jetsam accumulated around the place. If you need an evaluation on the viability of equipment or repairs, please contact Greg and he will make the necessary arrangements.

Over the next week I will park a trolley on each floor, i.e. one day per floor. Please help by putting 'anything' that is no longer required by your lab, on or near the trolley for evaluation and possible disposal. Anything = equipment, ancient glassware, wooden things, old shelves, metal trays, chemicals past their "use by" date, etc.

Note that storage in ducts is not permitted and these areas must be kept free for servicing, (just in case you were thinking of it).

- Bruce

Staff Profile

Julie Mackenzie

I was born and bred in Dunedin. I left school and spent one year at University doing Commerce. At the end of the year I decided this wasn't really what I wanted to do for the rest of my life so I went out and found a job. I worked for The Post Office and then New Zealand Telecom for seven years (doesn't time fly!) until my job was made redundant in 1990. I decided it was time for the big O.E. and left New Zealand in March 1990. I had already had a small taste of what is out there in 1988 when I spent four months travelling around the US, England, Scotland, Europe and Australia.

I arrived in England and quickly was to find a temporary job which lasted for two years. I was working for the Marketing area of British Telecom as the Budget Control Liaison Officer (the budget for Marketing being a mere 70 million pounds a year). They were great bosses and let me take time off to travel. I managed to see more of Europe, Turkey, Scandinavia, Israel, Britain (including one day in Dublin to see the All Blacks lose against Aussie in the World Cup semi-final).

I left England in May 1992 and visited Egypt, East Africa, South Africa, Canada, and Hawaii on the way home. I arrived back in Dunedin to a beautiful day which was to be the hottest we had all summer. I then spent five very long months looking for a job.

Outside work hours I love being outdoors enjoying the fresh air and scenery. I also love cooking, spinning, reading, going to the gym to lift weights, aqua-aerobics and how could I forget......movies!

Thank You from the 4th Year Class

To all who turned up for the 4th year presentations, and especially to Dr Thiele for the coordination of them (and the prompt return of results!).
Did you Know?

First Aid

Every lab including the teaching labs is equipped with

(i) a first aid kit and manual
(ii) eye wash bottle
(iii) Laboratory Safety Procedures manual (Micro Dept.)

These items should be in a clearly identified spot. With each First Aid kit there is a list of the contents, Julie keeps replacement stock in the store.

The ground floor classroom, 2nd floor classroom and third floor glass prep. area also have emergency showers, these can be used on burns or as an eye wash. If you are a demonstrator you should know where these are situated in the lab. These should be used occasionally to flush out the pseudomonas. The smaller eye wash bottles should be made up with 300mls sterile distilled water. I suggest keeping a spare 300mls sterile dist. water in glass beside it. If you do splash some culture or chemical in your eye it is better to stick your face under a tap immediately while someone else grabs the eye wash bottle, (just in case it hasn't been filled).

Have you done a first aid course recently? There are a number of first aid courses available to University staff during the year. Some of these are specialised such as the one for electrical workers. At a later date I will make a register of who has done what.

Remember that "real" First Aid doesn't require equipment, only knowledge.

Guess who?