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AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE  
OF POLICY & SCIENCE

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Annual Report 2006

## CONTENTS

From the Chair	1
2006 – The Year in Review	3
2007 – Outlook	3
AIPS – Our Heritage	4
<i>AQ: Australian Quarterly</i>	5
The Tall Poppy Campaign	6
Young Tall Poppy Science Awards	7
Tall Poppies Reaching Kids	9
The 2006 Merck Sharp & Dohme Florey Medal	10
Professional Activities	12
Partnerships/Sponsorships	13

## The Australian Institute of Policy & Science

The Australian Institute of Political Science, established in 1932, changed its name in July 2006 to the Australian Institute of Policy and Science. The organization will continue to be called by its shortened name, AIPS.

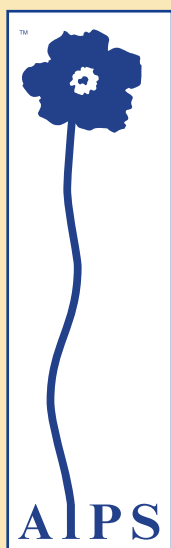
AIPS is an independent non-partisan organization, incorporated as a not for profit company. AIPS initiated the Tall Poppy Campaign in 1998.

### Roles

- Providing a forum for the bipartisan discussion of major political, economic, social, educational and scientific issues affecting Australia.
- Promoting a greater appreciation of the wealth of Australian scientific and intellectual excellence, through the recognition of outstanding achievers.
- Investing in Australia's future by encouraging young Australians to value science and innovation and to consider careers in these areas.

### Activities

- Publication since 1932 of the public affairs journal *AQ: Australian Quarterly*.
- Meetings, seminars, lectures and educational programs on important contemporary issues of relevance to the Australian general public and specific professional, business, community and government groups.
- **The Tall Poppy Campaign** which recognizes outstanding achievers and encourages younger Australians to follow in their footsteps, through the following programs:
  - The Merck Sharp & Dohme Florey Medal
  - Young Tall Poppy Science Awards
  - Tall Poppies Reaching Kids program
  - Science education and promotion activities
  - Young Tall Poppy Awards for Public Administration



*The Tall Poppy is a metaphor for excellence and endeavour and symbolizes Australia's pride in its outstanding achievers – in all fields.*

## FROM THE CHAIR

### The role of AIPS: Political Science, Policy, Science and Social Commentary

As AIPS enters its 75th year it celebrates the commitment of its founders to enhance public understanding of the political and economic situation affecting Australians. Unprecedented change coupled with a desire to understand those forces was the catalyst for creating AIPS. Equally compelling challenges are shaping our contemporary world, reinforcing the need for an organization that seeks to debate public issues and provide a rational approach to national problems, just as the founders of AIPS sought to understand the origins, effects and impact of the Great Depression.

*AQ: Australian Quarterly*, our journal, continues as a platform for discussion of important and sometimes controversial issues that both inform and challenge readers. Policy issues also take centre-stage at various AIPS events while the organisation's expanded role in recent years in the promotion of excellence, particularly in science, is reflected through the Tall Poppy Campaign.

Given the strengthened focus of AIPS on policy issues over the last few years, it is fitting that a name change was effected during 2006. The change from the Australian Institute of Political Science to the Australian Institute of Policy and Science was agreed at an Extraordinary General Meeting and is formally registered with ASIC.

In another change, *AQ: Journal of Contemporary Analysis* became *AQ: Australian Quarterly*, using its former name as a sub-title from Issue 1, January/February 2006. It was felt important to reinstate the name by which the journal has been known from its inception even though the journal is now published six times a year! An Editorial Advisory Committee has met three times since its establishment towards the end of 2005 to suggest ideas for articles and ways to attract new contributors and readers. James Morris continues as a very able editor who manages to deliver a timely, broad-ranging and provocative set of articles each issue.

The last 12 months were marked by achievements in a number of areas. AIPS enjoyed a successful year both financially and in its public outreach programs. The organization posted a small surplus in the 2005/06 financial year. *AQ*, the Post-Budget Health Briefing event and Tall Poppy Campaign activities maintained momentum. Young Tall Poppy Science Awards were re-instated in Victoria this year and it is expected that awards will be made in WA for the first time in 2007.

The profile of the Tall Poppy Campaign has increased significantly over the last 12 months, primarily by scheduling Young Tall Poppy Science Awards annually in South Australia, NSW/ACT and Victoria and by highlighting the work of young researchers in many forums.

Remote and regional communities were the special focus of the Tall Poppies Reaching Kids program this year with the specific aim of engaging with students from areas where only a small number go on to university after completing school. In South Australia, Young Tall Poppies visited the Cleve region and Roxby Downs as well as new outer suburbs of Adelaide. In NSW, visits were made to Wollongong and the western suburbs of Sydney as well as to Armidale as part of "Science in the Bush".



Rick McLean  
AIPS Chair



Dorothy Davis  
AIPS Executive Director



Pamela McLeod  
State Manager (SA & Vic)  
Tall Poppy Campaign

## Board Members

Professor Rick McLean

Ms Gladys Berejiklian, MLA

Mr Leon Beswick

Ms Chris Jenner

Mr Andrew Goodsall  
(from 23/11/06)

Mr Peter McMahan

Mr Charles Mendel

Ms Julie Owens, MP  
(from 13/07/06)

Mr Mike Steketee

Mr Robert Wells

Mr Warwick Wilkinson, AM

## Staff

Dorothy Davis, AM  
Executive Director

Pamela McLeod  
State Manager (SA & Vic)

Nikki Sullings  
Project Officer (P/T)

Karen Strang  
Project Co-ordinator (Victoria P/T)

Young Tall Poppies have also taken part in career expos, science debates, ministerial briefings, Science Teachers' Association conferences – promoting science, encouraging the take-up of science for further study and careers, and demonstrating the excellence and commitment of Australia's younger science researchers.

I am pleased to announce that the 2006 Florey Medal is being sponsored by the pharmaceutical company Merck Sharp & Dohme, one of the earliest companies associated with the development of penicillin. I hope that sponsorship of the Florey Medal by Merck Sharp & Dohme is the commencement of a long-term relationship between the company, AIPS and the Tall Poppy Campaign. We also have new sponsors, Johnson & Johnson and MBF, for the annual Post-Budget Health Briefing.

AIPS is fortunate to have such dedicated people as our Executive Director Dorothy Davis and South Australian and Victorian Manager, Pamela McLeod. I thank them both and their part-time staff for their commitment, support and imaginative efforts, and for ensuring the continued viability of our activities. I also wish to acknowledge our Young Tall Poppies who have made an invaluable contribution in helping to inspire the next generation of young scientists.

Rick McLean  
Chair

## 2006

### THE YEAR IN REVIEW

- AIPS becomes the Australian Institute of Policy & Science.
- The biennial Florey Medal gains new sponsorship.
- Selection of 2006 Merck Sharp & Dohme Florey Medallist.
- *AQ: Journal of Contemporary Analysis* changes its name to *AQ: Australian Quarterly*.
- *AQ* addresses key contemporary issues including weapons of mass destruction, conflict in the Middle East, global warming, multiculturalism and workplace relations.
- Annual Post Budget Health Briefing by Minister Tony Abbott attracts new sponsorship and large audience.
- Re-launch of the annual Young Tall Poppy Science Awards in Victoria, as well as awards in NSW/ACT and South Australia.
- Expansion of educational outreach programs, including schools in regional areas and community centres in South Australia, NSW and the ACT. Young Tall Poppies engaged with 50 schools and reached more than 6,000 students during the year.
- *A Day in Court* – an innovative linking of law and science in a mock trial with leading young forensic scientists.
- Ministerial briefings by Young Tall Poppies with the SA Minister for Science and Information Economy and NSW Ministers for Environment and Health.
- New corporate sponsorship and increased support from universities, particularly in South Australia and Victoria.
- National media coverage of AIPS, including profiling of Young Tall Poppies.
- New partnerships with the corporate sector to complement government funding and ensure continuity of programs.
- Introduction of the Young Tall Poppy Awards for Public Administration.

## 2007

### OUTLOOK

- Celebration of AIPS 75th anniversary.
- Special edition of *AQ: Australian Quarterly* in mid-2007 in recognition of 75th anniversary of AIPS, with contributions from noted Australian commentators.
- Alumni event to recognize the 10th year of the Tall Poppy Campaign.
- Presentation of the Merck Sharp & Dohme Florey Medal to Professor Ian Frazer.
- Appointment of part-time staff in Victoria and WA to organize local education and science promotion activities.
- Interest in sponsorship from universities, with WA and Queensland institutions committed to future activities in their respective states.
- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) sponsorship of Tall Poppies Medical Research Seminars for metropolitan secondary schools.
- Further enrichment of the Tall Poppy national resource with additional Young Tall Poppies selected from five states/territories in 2007.
- Expansion of Tall Poppy activities into wider community forums such as museums and community education programs.
- Redirection of the Tall Poppies Reaching Kids activities to focus on building relationships between schools and young scientists.
- Contribution to community science promotion and awareness activities including festivals, briefings and National Science Week.
- Key national challenges (environment, medical research, water management, energy) addressed by Young Tall Poppies.
- Support from the Institute of Public Administration Australia for joint annual Young Tall Poppy Awards with AIPS.

## AIPS – OUR HERITAGE

The Australian Institute of Policy and Science (AIPS) was set up, as the Australian Institute of Political Science, in 1932 following the Great Depression. The driving force behind the creation of AIPS is as relevant today as it was during the 1930s. AIPS was created to further public understanding of the political, economic and social issues in Australia. Among the founders were Kim Mackay and Norman Cowper, the latter standing against William Morris Hughes in the 1931 federal election. Cowper's subsequent defeat became the catalyst for the formation of the AIPS which celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2007.

Kim Mackay was also instrumental in establishing the famous AIPS Summer Schools which were influential in informing public debate and political policy. At the first Summer School in 1933 Robert Menzies led the debate on the Constitution. Some 30 years later the 1964 Summer School marked a turning point in the Vietnam conscription debates while in the late 1960s the Schools were important in forging the policy agenda in the lead-up to the 1972 federal election.

AIPS continues this tradition. It is an independent, non-partisan body whose objectives are to promote:

- the discussion of political, social, economic and educational issues facing Australia through public forums and the journal *AQ: Australian Quarterly*
- a greater appreciation of the wealth of Australian scientific and intellectual excellence and outstanding achievers in all fields through the Tall Poppy Campaign and its Young Tall Poppy Awards.

### Membership and Subscribers

The AIPS Memorandum of Association provides for membership to be open to individuals both in Australia and overseas. All members are entitled to participate and vote at the Annual General Meeting of AIPS.

Subscribers to AIPS's journal, *AQ: Australian Quarterly* include all Australian universities, as well as many secondary schools, government departments, state and local libraries, parliamentarians, political scientists, and overseas universities and organizations.

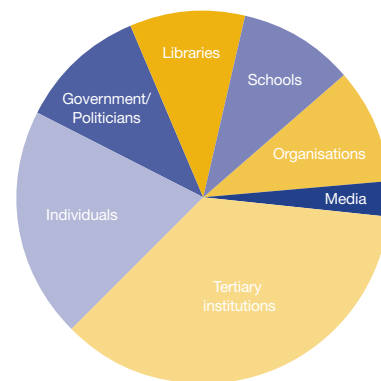


## AQ: AUSTRALIAN QUARTERLY

*AQ: Australian Quarterly* has a history of delivering informed comment and analysis about some of the major challenges that have confronted the nation. One of Australia's oldest current affairs journals, its continuous publication since 1929 has guaranteed a platform for debating some of the crucial issues that have shaped Australia. AIPS took over publication in 1932 and today the journal continues to provide readers with lively, thought-provoking content that asks important questions in an accessible, readable style.

Articles are selected for publication in *AQ* according to their relevance to Australian and international public affairs and their contribution to current debate. Topics over the past year have included global warming, surf life-saving, freedom of information legislation, tertiary education policy, industrial relations policy, the drinking habits of former Australian politicians, changing attitudes towards death, housing costs, electronic voting, Australian identity and multiculturalism.

A special edition of *AQ*, with articles from distinguished past contributors and current high-profile commentators, is planned for mid-2007 as part of the 75th anniversary celebrations. Contributors include Malcolm Fraser, former Prime Minister; Eva Cox, women's liberation commentator; Clive Hamilton, Australia Institute and author of *Affluenza*; Amanda Vanstone, former Liberal Party Senator; and Natasha Stott Despoja, Australian Democrats Senator.



AQ Distribution

## POST BUDGET HEALTH BRIEFING



The Post Budget Health Briefing breakfast is an annual event organized by AIPS to give health professionals an opportunity to receive a first-hand briefing from the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing. The briefing takes place in Sydney the morning after the Budget is delivered giving those attending the opportunity to discuss the Federal Government's latest policy initiatives and question the Minister on directions and changes in program funding.

In 2006 about 180 people attended the briefing by the Hon Tony Abbott on 10 May. The event was sponsored by Johnson & Johnson and MBF.

Above left: The Hon Tony Abbott

Above: Guests at Post Budget Health Briefing at the American Club

## YOUNG TALL POPPY PROFILE



**Dr Shane Huntington**, a Young Tall Poppy from the University of Melbourne, is both a scientist and an entrepreneur. After starting his own R&D company in 1999, Shane is now CEO of Quantum Communications Victoria, where he uses his expertise in Fibre Optics to manage a research team that is developing technology to make telecommunications 100% secure. This means preventing theft of information during online banking transactions and tapped phone calls.



Above: At the 2006 NSW Young Tall Poppy Awards.

Below: NSW Young Tall Poppies at work.



# THE TALL POPPY CAMPAIGN: INVESTING IN AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE

The Tall Poppy Campaign was created in 1998 by AIPS to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Sir Howard Florey, an Australian Nobel Prize winner who discovered penicillin. Its wider purpose is to promote science and innovation as the basis for Australia's future prosperity and international competitiveness. It celebrates Australian scientific and intellectual excellence as well as encouraging young Australians to follow in the footsteps of our outstanding achievers. Importantly, the Tall Poppy Campaign aims to develop an Australian culture that celebrates achievement.

Australia is facing a severe shortage of scientists, with universities experiencing significant declines in enrolments for science courses and schools struggling to interest students in the field. In this environment, the Tall Poppy Campaign is playing a vital role promoting the pivotal place of science in solving global issues and nurturing the future prosperity of the nation.

In 2006, a Federal Government audit revealed that Australia will face a shortage of at least 20,000 scientists by 2011, leading Education Minister Julie Bishop to call for a coordinated, comprehensive national effort to lift the profile of science in schools and universities. At the same time, there are signs of a looming crisis in secondary science education with a deficiency of skilled science teachers and fewer graduates with strong backgrounds in chemistry and physics taking up teaching.

Tall Poppy Campaign activities directly address these issues of national significance. Our Young Tall Poppy Science Awards focus on outstanding younger researchers, usually aged in their thirties. As well as demonstrating exceptional research achievements, the Young Tall Poppies are excellent communicators with a commitment

to promoting science in the community. The recent winners are involved in areas of crucial importance to society in fields such as medical research, environmental science, biotechnology and alternative energy.

Our Young Tall Poppies act as role models, inspiring young people to pursue science studies and science careers. With the growing importance of the knowledge

economy and the need for Australia's research capacity to keep pace with other modern economies, our Young Tall Poppies are a national resource of science expertise who willingly share their knowledge and enthusiasm.



In 2006, the Tall Poppy Campaign was extended to public administration in federal and state governments and agencies, with four winners selected for their outstanding work, academic achievements, leadership potential and communication skills.





## YOUNG TALL POPPY SCIENCE AWARDS

Thirty Young Tall Poppies were selected in 2006 through the Young Tall Poppy Science Awards held in South Australia, NSW, the ACT and Victoria.

Nobel Prize Winner and 1998 Florey Medallist, Professor Robin Warren was guest speaker in South Australia where six awards were presented in August.

In October, 15 NSW and ACT Tall Poppies were announced in Sydney at a ceremony attended by around 160 representatives of the higher education and scientific communities. Mr Col Gellatly, Director General of the NSW Premier's Department, presented the Awards together with Professor Rick McLean, Chair of AIPS. Agilent Technologies sponsored a Young Tall Poppy Award for Life Sciences.

Nine Victorian Young Tall Poppies were announced at an event at Bio21 Institute at the University of Melbourne in December. The Honorable John Brumby, State Minister for Innovation, presented the awards which were also attended by Sir Gus Nossal and Professor Graham Mitchell, two of Victoria's Chief Scientists.

During 2006, special attention was paid in NSW and Victoria to attract nominations from regional universities, especially in their fields of research excellence. Contact was made with vice-chancellors, deans and research officers in these universities to encourage nominations.

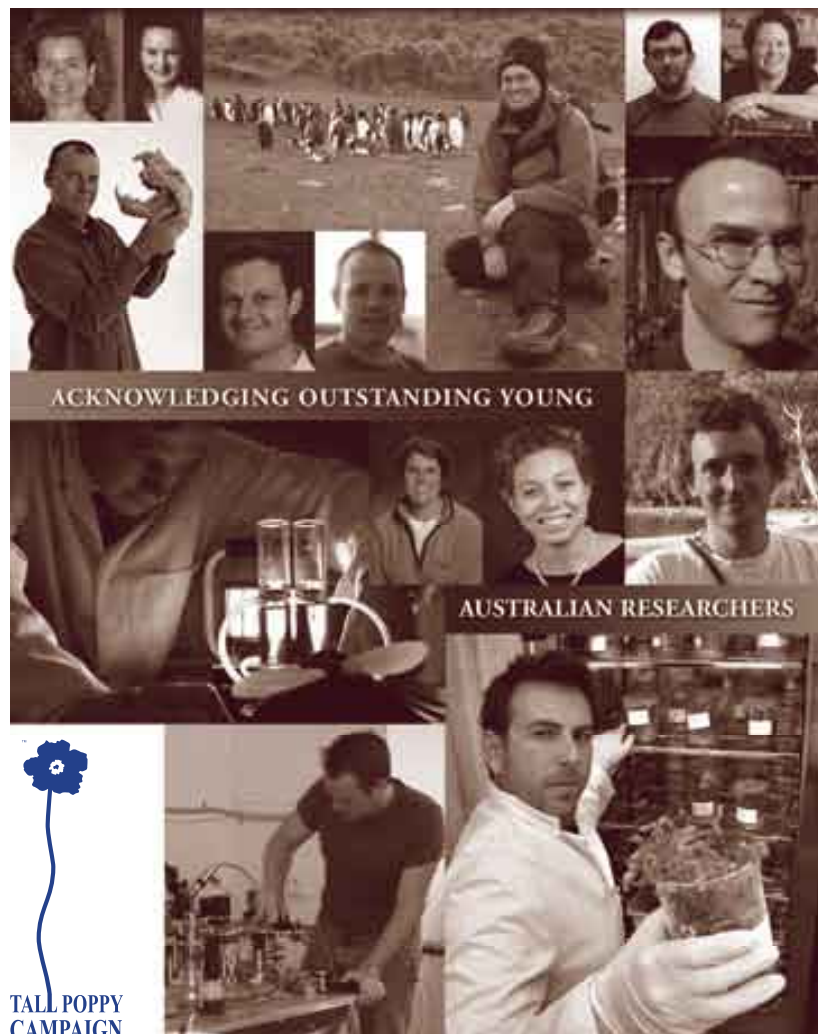
### Young Tall Poppies

The names and research fields of the 2006 Young Tall Poppies are listed on the next page. Their work includes medical research into the early origins of cardiovascular disease, the ethical implications of developing new treatments for infertility, and neurodegenerative disorders studying diseases such as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or 'mad cow' disease. Young Tall Poppies are also achieving breakthroughs researching climate change, the environment, pollution and plant disease. Others are focusing on nanotechnology, artificial intelligence and search engines. Working in Australia, these Young Tall Poppies contribute to research of global significance which will reap lasting benefits to society.



South Australian  
Young Tall Poppies 2006

NSW Young Tall Poppies 2006



## YOUNG TALL POPPY PROFILE



NSW Young Tall Poppy

**Dr Deborah Marsh** hopes her research will contribute to earlier diagnosis for cancer patients as well as streamlining therapeutic options for patients. Deborah studies the influence of genetic factors in cancer and was one of the team involved in the landmark discovery of PTEN as the tumour suppressor gene for Cowden Syndrome – a breast, thyroid and endometrial cancer.

## School Program

### 2005

- SA** 20 schools – metropolitan  
4,000 students  
1 teachers' workshop
- QLD** 10 schools  
1,500 students
- NT** 2 schools  
100 students
- NSW** Teachers' seminars

### 2006

- SA** 40 schools – 20 regional,  
20 metropolitan  
5,000 students  
3 career expos  
5 teachers' workshops
- NSW** 15 schools – 5 regional,  
10 metropolitan  
1,000 students  
2 teachers' workshops
- VIC** 1 teachers' workshop

## NSW 2006 Young Tall Poppy Award Winners

<b>Dr Douglas Aberdeen</b>	Artificial Intelligence
<b>Dr Alaina Ammit</b>	Asthma and Airway Remodelling
<b>Dr James Curran</b>	Computational Linguistics
<b>Dr Nathan Daczko</b>	Structural Geology
<b>Assoc Prof Louisa Degenhardt</b>	Drug Trends
<b>Dr Kirstie Fryirs</b>	Fluvial Geomorphology and River Management
<b>Dr Andrew Harris</b>	Sustainable Technology
<b>Dr Andrew Hopkins</b>	Astrophysics
<b>Dr Ulrike Mathesius</b>	Plant-microbial Interactions
<b>Dr Adam Micolich</b>	Development of Nanoscale Electronic Devices
<b>Dr Geraldine O'Neill</b>	Cancer Cell Biology
<b>Dr Leigh Sheppard</b>	Solid State Chemistry / Solar Hydrogen
<b>Dr Stuart Tangye</b>	Immunology
<b>Dr David Tschärke</b>	Immunology and Virology
<b>Dr Stephen Wroe</b>	Palaeontology (Palaeobiology & Biomechanics)

## SA 2006 Young Tall Poppy Award Winners

<b>Dr Amanda Able</b>	Agriculture, Food & Wine
<b>Dr Nicole Lamond</b>	Sleep Research
<b>Dr Janna Morrison</b>	Early Origins of Cardiovascular Disease
<b>Dr Bradley Ferguson</b>	T-Ray Imaging & Spectroscopy
<b>Dr Mel McDowall</b>	Agriculture & Animal Science
<b>Assoc Prof Nico Voelcker</b>	Chemistry & Nanotechnology

## VIC 2006 Young Tall Poppy Award Winners

<b>Dr Stuart Batten</b>	Chemistry
<b>Dr Rachel Caruso</b>	Materials Chemistry
<b>Dr Rony Duncan</b>	Medical Ethics
<b>Dr Andrew Hill</b>	Biochemistry, Molecular & Cellular Biology
<b>Dr Shane Huntington</b>	Scanning Probe Microscopy, Optical Fibre Characterisation, Nano-Photonics
<b>Dr Hylton Menz</b>	Podiatry & Geriatrics
<b>Assoc Prof Pradeep Nathan</b>	Neuroscience, Psychiatry, Brain Imaging, Psychopharmacology
<b>Prof Helena Teede</b>	Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease, Women's Health
<b>Dr Christine White</b>	Reproductive Biology

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS

During 2006, AIPS organized a range of activities around Australia to promote science and young scientists, working with students, teachers, business and the broader community. Highlights included the Tall Poppy Innovation Festival Debate in Adelaide in late April, ministerial briefings, 'Working Scientifically at the Zoo', 'Science and Law: A Day in Court', career expos, as well as numerous school visits far and wide. More than 30 Young Tall Poppies contributed to these activities over the year, providing presentations of the highest quality and creativity.

## TALL POPPIES REACHING KIDS

Young Tall Poppies participated in activities which provided students and teachers with an understanding of the practical applications of science, promoted the relevance of science in everyday life and encouraged students to consider further studies and careers in science. The Young Tall Poppies education program placed an emphasis on involving regional and rural areas and schools where there is not a strong tradition of progression to higher education.

In South Australia, presentations continue at Underdale High School Science Club for Years 8 to 11 with more than 100 students taking part. Visits to schools in the regions of Loxton, Riverland, Cleve and Roxby Downs were organized.

Activities in NSW focused on schools in regional and outer metropolitan areas. Presentations in Greater Western Sydney were well received when Tall Poppies spoke to more than 300 students at St Mary's High School and surrounding schools in the region, followed up later by a workshop on maths and science for selected science students from secondary colleges. Year 10 and 11 students were targeted during presentations at Wollongong's Smith's Hill Secondary School and surrounding schools.

In Victoria, seminars were held with regional Science coordinators and planning began for a program of metropolitan and regional school visits during 2007 covering areas such as Kyneton, Ballarat, Coburg, Geelong, Barwon Southwest and northwestern Melbourne.

National Science Week in August 2006 was the focus of a number of activities involving Young Tall Poppies including 'Science and the Law: A Day in Court'. This popular activity took students into the real world of forensic science and sitting in a court room where they played the role of the jury, listening to expert evidence and deciding the case. Following the trial, students had the opportunity to question forensic scientists on their roles, research and the increasing importance of forensic science in the legal system. Participants included secondary and university students, teachers, parents, members of the NSW Fire Brigade and the public.

'Working Scientifically at the Zoo' was another successful event with Young Tall Poppies making presentations at Taronga Zoo to primary school teachers. 'Science in the Bush' in Armidale involved two Young Tall Poppies giving presentations to schools and the community in the Northern Tablelands area of NSW.



'Working Scientifically At the Zoo'  
Young Tall Poppy with leopard seal



Above: Young Tall Poppy Visit to St Ives North Public School, NSW

Below: Young Tall Poppy science classroom visit, Vic



## THE 2006 MERCK SHARP & DOHME FLOREY MEDAL



Florey Medal

The Florey Medal, initiated by AIPS in 1998, is a prestigious biennial award made to an outstanding Australian biomedical researcher for a milestone achievement in biomedical science and human health advancement. In addition to the silver medal, the award carries a \$25,000 cash prize. Since 1998, the medal has been awarded to five scientists, two jointly.

Inaugural joint winners in 1998 were Dr Robin Warren (Royal Perth Hospital) and Professor Barry Marshall (University of Western Australia) for their discovery of the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori* and its role in gastritis and peptic ulcer disease. The work of these scientists was further honoured with the 2005 Nobel Prize for Medicine.

In 2000, Professor Jacques Miller (Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research and The University of Melbourne) was awarded the medal for the discovery of the function of the thymus.

The University of Melbourne's Professor Colin Masters was the 2002 medallist for work relating to Alzheimer's disease.

In 2004, the medal was presented to Professor Peter Colman (Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research) for his work in structural biology research, particularly for the discovery of a new class of anti-influenza drugs.

The 2006 selection committee, comprising some of Australia's most prestigious scientists, selected Professor Ian Frazer (Diamantina Institute, University of Queensland) as the winner of this medal for his work in developing vaccines for human papillomaviruses. Professor Michael Good, Chair of the NHMRC, presented the Medal to Professor Frazer.

### Florey Medal Selection Committee

Professor Fred Mendelsohn, AO  
(Chair)

Professor Rick McLean

Professor Aileen Plant

Dr Fiona Wood, AM

Professor Graham Macdonald

Mr Robyn Williams, AM

Professor Peter Rathjen

Professor Judith Whitworth, AC

Professor John Chalmers, AC

Professor Frank Fenner, AC



Merck Sharp & Dohme Florey Medal presentation.

Left to right: Graham Macdonald, Fred Mendelsohn, Ian Frazer, Xiao Yi Sun (widow of Jian Zhou), Norman Swan, Rick McLean, Michael Good

## TALL POPPY IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH



2006 Merck Sharp & Dohme Florey Medal Winner, Professor Ian Frazer, at work  
Photo by Chris Stacey, The University of Queensland.

The award was presented at an event at Scientia at the University of NSW in March, 2007. Merck Sharp & Dohme are the proud sponsors of the Merck Sharp & Dohme Florey Medal.

The 2006 Merck Sharp & Dohme Florey Medal was hand sculpted by Michael Meszaros, a Melbourne sculptor who has produced a wide range of work from major public pieces to his speciality of medals. Michael follows in the tradition of his father, Andor, also a sculptor and medallist of international reputation who was commissioned in 1963 by the Florey Institute at the University of Melbourne to create a portrait medal for Sir Howard Florey.

Michael met Sir Howard at that time and fittingly the 2006 award is based on that earlier medal. Using his father's original as a guide, Michael remodelled the medal, added a different inscription, designed a reverse and cast it in bright sterling silver.

## MINISTERIAL BRIEFINGS

Up Close and Personal Lunches are a particular feature of activities in South Australia where Deloitte (SA) supports AIPS in creating opportunities for the corporate sector to meet Australia's leading scientists. During 2006, the South Australian Minister for Science and Information Economy, the Hon Karlene Maywald and the inaugural Florey Medallist and Nobel Prize Laureate, Professor Robin Warren, were special guests at these gatherings.

Ministerial meetings also provide regular opportunities for communicating more widely about the latest research being undertaken by Young Tall Poppies. Briefings provide ministers with updates on the latest research developments taking place in their respective states and territories. These occasions also provide opportunities for Young Tall Poppies to meet Ministers and share their views on relevant topics. Two briefings were held in NSW Parliament House with Ministers John Hatzistergos and Bob Debus.

### Professor Ian Frazer

Professor Ian Frazer worked for 20 years researching the link between papilloma viruses and cancer before developing a preventative vaccine that has been hailed as a lifesaver for women around the world.

Professor Frazer is Director of the University of Queensland's Diamantina Institute – Institute for Immunology & Cancer Research, at Princess Alexandra Hospital. He and his team developed the technology to produce the vaccine which protects against four of the dozens of strains of human papillomavirus (HPV) which cause genital warts as well as cervical cancer.

Professor Frazer said it was an honour to receive the Florey Medal on behalf of the team of people involved in developing HPV cervical cancer vaccines, especially his UQ colleague, the late Dr Jian Zhou.

## YOUNG TALL POPPY PROFILE



**Dr Janna Morrison**, a Young Tall Poppy for South Australia, studies the impact of low birth weight on cardiovascular development exploring the regulation of blood pressure and the development of the heart. This followed early work focusing on the neural regulation of foetal sleep states and the impact of maternal antidepressant use on foetal development. This work was designed to provide pregnant women with evidence to decide whether or not to take antidepressants during pregnancy.

### **Institute for Public Administration Australia (IPAA) 2006 Young Tall Poppy Winners**

#### **Peter Papantoniou**

Director of Strategic Infrastructure Policy with the Queensland Department of Main Roads

#### **Helen Vahl Meyer**

Principal Policy Officer with the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet

#### **Mary Clarke**

Assistant Director in the Department of Treasury and Finance

#### **Susan Monkley**

Assistant Secretary with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Medical Science Updates

#### **National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Seminars**

Planning began in 2006 for a high-profile seminar program for schools presented by Young Tall Poppies under the auspices of the National Health and Medical Research Council. The program will aim to inspire an interest in science, health and medical research and demonstrate the amazing richness of Australian achievements through presentations by Young Tall Poppies who have NHMRC fellowships. It will also provide information for secondary students, teachers, academics and curriculum developers on key issues in health and medical research.

Of the 150 Young Tall Poppies, about 50 are from the medical and health areas and 20 are or have been NHMRC Fellows. The initial seminars in 2007 will focus on Stem Cell Research; Fighting Disease; and Brain Research.

### Professional Support & Media

Support was provided for attendance by three Young Tall Poppies at professional conferences where they profiled their Tall Poppy Campaign activities. AIPS also provided a prize to a young researcher for 'communication skills' at the 2006 ACT Australian Society for Medical Research Conference, and contributed to overseas travel for a young school student to attend an international Science debate overseas.

AIPS was represented at a number of conferences on science promotion including the Medical Industry of Australia Association and Research Australia.

Media coverage of AIPS activities, particularly the Tall Poppy Campaign, has helped raise community awareness of the increasingly significant role of science in ensuring the future prosperity of the planet. Coverage of such research also provides tangible evidence of the many dimensions that a career in science offers as well as acknowledging the important work being performed by Young Tall Poppies.

### Young Tall Poppy IPAA Winners

During 2006 The Young Tall Poppy Awards were expanded beyond science to include achievement in public administration. AIPS and the Institute for Public Administration Australia (IPAA) jointly selected four winners for the inaugural 2006 Young Tall Poppy Awards in Public Administration..

Winners were selected for their outstanding academic achievement in the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG) Masters program, leadership potential and communication skills. They will act as role models and mentors for younger people interested in a career in public administration.

## PARTNERSHIPS/SPONSORSHIPS

In 2006, the Australian Institute of Policy and Science and the Tall Poppy Campaign received funding support from a number of organizations for specific purposes or projects:

- Australian Government Department of Finance and Administration – *AQ*
- Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing – Tall Poppy Campaign
- National Health and Medical Research Council – Tall Poppy Campaign
- South Australian Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology – South Australian Tall Poppy Campaign
- NSW Department of Education and Training – NSW Tall Poppy Campaign
- Office of Science and Medical Research, NSW Department of State and Regional Development – NSW Tall Poppy Campaign
- Victorian Department of Innovation, Industry & Regional Development – Victorian Tall Poppy Campaign
- Victorian Department of Education and Training – Victorian Tall Poppy Campaign
- Merck Sharp & Dohme – Florey Medal
- Johnson & Johnson – Post Budget Health Briefing
- MBF – Post Budget Health Briefing
- Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training – National Science Week
- Agilent Technologies – Young Tall Poppy Science Award
- University of Adelaide, UniSA, University of Melbourne, Monash University, Swinburne University, Victoria University, Deakin University, University of WA, ANU.

The AIPS partnership with the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing over the last six years has ensured the development of the educational component of the Tall Poppy Campaign. In future, funding will be directed towards building a national Tall Poppy Campaign operating in all states and territories and to using Tall Poppies to address key scientific issues in the general community.

The valuable contribution of the South Australian Tall Poppy Campaign Committee is especially acknowledged.

### Partnership Opportunities

Partnerships with the AIPS and the Tall Poppy Campaign provide benefits such as:

- Affiliation with a highly regarded, long-established institution providing a forum for discussion on contemporary issues facing Australia
- Opportunity to reach *AQ* readers and subscribers (individuals, universities, schools, government departments both in Australia and overseas)
- Association with the recognition of Australian excellence and high achievement in science through the Tall Poppy Campaign
- Association with a high-profile campaign promoting science and innovation and the study of science in schools and universities
- Access to 150 outstanding young researchers in Australia as commentators and presenters
- Association with Australia's eminent scientists and scientific research community through the Florey Medal
- Connecting to ministers, politicians, leading scientists and policy makers through AIPS and Tall Poppy Campaign events
- Media coverage and marketing opportunities.

### Tall Poppy Ambassadors

Tall Poppy Ambassadors have been appointed in South Australia, Victoria, NSW and the ACT. These former Young Tall Poppies, who are now leaders in their fields, take every opportunity in their professional roles to promote the Tall Poppy Campaign and support the incoming Tall Poppies in their educational outreach activities.

#### Victoria and South Australia Tall Poppy Ambassador:

Professor Peter Rathjen, formerly Executive Dean in the Faculty of Science at the University of Adelaide, and now Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Melbourne.

#### NSW Tall Poppy Ambassador:

Associate Professor Maria Kavallaris, Faculty of Medicine at the University of NSW and Research Professor at the Children's Cancer Institute Australia. Maria will take on the Presidency of the Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) in mid- 2007.

#### ACT Tall Poppy Ambassador:

Associate Professor Suresh Mahalingam, Leader of the Viral Research Group in the School of Health Sciences at the University of Canberra, ACT.

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