

THIS ISSUE: E-health - evolution or revolution?

# DoctorQ

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## FINALLY, A FINAL WORD ON DARWIN

I was amused to come across a series of letters from Dr Greg Smith (initially in response to Dr John Cox's article in *Doctor Q*, July 2010, and most recently in the March edition) and Dr Chris Strakosh (in response to Dr Smith's response to Dr Cox) dealing with evolution.

I suppose the magazine was in trouble from the start when it ventured into the politically-charged world of climate change with Dr Cox's initial article, which in one page attempts to summarise the millennial-scale history of carbon sequestration by evolving life-forms, throws in some helpful ideas for politicians on what to do about the release of that carbon, and even manages a fairly gratuitous reference to Charles Darwin and an eponymously named Australian termite! All quite amusing until the point when Dr Smith weighs in with his "Darwin was wrong" theory, serially quoting from well-known Intelligent Design proponent Michael Denton, a man whose works have been thoroughly dissected and debunked by mainstream academic experts in evolution the world over.

*Doctor Q* please! Refrain from getting involved in the publication of this kind of "debate" - for those who are serious about it, there are acres of print, and gigabytes of online material devoted to this fracas. To dabble in it in the name of "journalistic balance" is farcical. Your editors are not experts in evolution, or climate change, and should leave the moderation of this sort of topic to other forums. In my opinion, to do otherwise is an embarrassment to the publication.

**Dr Chris Richardson**

**Editor:** Dr Richardson, we neither "dabble in the name of journalistic balance", claim ourselves as experts in evolution or climate change or moderate forums of any kind. We merely print the letters that our busy members have kindly taken the time to write. That said, I think it's time for a new topic to grace our letters page.

## DR MACKENZIE AND THE FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

In her account of Bill Mackenzie's outstanding career, Professor Cramond stated that he was one of the first six to enrol in the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Queensland. This is not correct.

From 1927, the Joint Board of Dental Studies supervised the training of dentists, who from 1932 received a Diploma of Dentistry. In 1935, when the Board's tripartite agreement broke down, the Faculty came into being. Students who entered first year in 1936 were the first to train fully in the new Faculty; those in their final year in 1936 graduated early in 1937, and would have been the first to receive the degree of BDS. One of them was George Christensen, whose graduation certificate is dated April 1937. He won first class honours and a University Gold Medal. As he died in 1969 at the young age of 54, his name is not well known, but he became an oral surgeon of the highest standing, it not being possible to record his many achievements in a short letter.

Bill Mackenzie, who graduated early in 1945, would have entered first year in 1941, five years after the first intake. It is no detraction from his fine CV to say that he was not one of the original students to enrol in the Faculty of Dentistry. From his comment, quoted by Professor Cramond, it is likely that only five others enrolled when he did.

**Dr Derek Meyers**

I would like to thank Dr Meyers for clarifying the entry of students to the Faculty of Dentistry during the transition from the Diploma in Dentistry to the undergraduate course leading to the Bachelor of Dental Science (BDS).

It is apparent that I misinterpreted Dr Mackenzie's comments about his entry into the Faculty of Dentistry. At the time the University was trying to encourage returning servicemen to apply for admission but accepted students from school to fill the ranks - hence Dr Mackenzie's comments. For this error I apologise and thank Dr Meyers for bringing the correct sequence to my attention.

**Professor Tess Cramond AO OBE**

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bill either...

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