



JOHN KENNETH HARCOURT
OAM, DDSc, FRACDS, FDSRCSEd (Hon),
FICD, FADM, FADI, FPFA.

John was born in 1931, elder twin son of Ken and Marjorie Harcourt of Glen Iris, and was educated at Malvern Church of England Grammar School, Wesley College and the University of Melbourne. He completed his dental degree in December 1953 and worked as a staff dentist for the Dental Hospital of Melbourne until the end of June 1954. He was invited by Professor Henry Atkinson to join the teaching staff of the Department of Dental Prosthetics of the Australian College of Dentistry in July 1954. In 1963 he was promoted to Senior Lecturer when the Faculty of Dental Science moved from Spring Street to the Haymarket site and the School of Dental Science came under the University of Melbourne with the winding up of the Australian College of Dentistry

He completed a Masters degree in Dental Materials and Dental Prosthetics in 1956 and a Doctor of Dental Science degree in 1967 with a thesis on the The microradiographic structure of human enamel and dentine. In 1965 he became an Inaugural Fellow of the newly formed Australian College of Dentists (now Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (RACDS)) and in 1998 he was inducted as an Honorary Fellow in Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He continued to teach both dental prosthetics and oral histology and embryology until a two year period of study leave from September 1967 to 1969 which was spent in the Department of Biological Materials at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois. During this time away he collaborated with Drs Evan Greener and Eugene Lautenschlager in various research projects which resulted in several publications and the writing of a dental materials textbook Materials Science in Dentistry which was published in 1972.

On his return to Melbourne, he continued to teach both dental prosthetics and oral histology and embryology. In 1974 he was promoted to Reader and in 1990 to Associate Professor and Reader. He returned in 1979 for a further year as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Biological Materials at Northwestern University. During the 1980s he was head of the Department of Restorative Dentistry and in 1991 after returning from six months Study Leave in the Dental Materials Department at the University of Hong Kong Dental School he became Continuing Education Coordinator in the now School of Dental Science which had been incorporated into the Faculty of Medicine. He retired at the end of 1996 but has continued his involvement in teaching as an Honorary Principal Fellow in the University of Melbourne since that time.

In the early 1960s he became involved in the Postgraduate Committee of the Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch (ADAVB) and then followed a time on the ADAVB Council before becoming President in 1975. He was an ADA Federal Councillor from Victoria from 1976 to 1986 and was appointed Editor of the Australian Dental Journal in 1985, a position which he held until 1998. He was a member of the Victorian Regional Committee of the RACDS, was elected to the council of the College in 1982 and became President in 1995 and 1996. He was Editor of the Annals of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons from 1988 to 2012. He was a member of the Dental Board of Victoria from 1987 to 2000 and was President of the Board in 1995 and 1996.

He was involved in many dental organisations including International Association for Dental Research, Australian and New Zealand Division (Secretary/Treasurer 1971-74, President 1976), the Australian Prosthodontic Society, International Standards Organisation Technical Committee 106 Dentistry and the Committee on Overseas Professional Qualifications Examinations Committee.

He was author or co-author of about 40 published papers and three textbooks and gave presentations at IADR and IADR ANZ scientific meetings.

In 1995 he was awarded a Medal in the Order of Australia for services to dentistry and dental education. He was also an Honorary Life Member of the ADA and ADAVB and an Honorary Fellow of RACDS.

Since retiring from the Dental School in 1996, he has been kept busy as a member of the Probus Club of Melbourne, assisting at the University of the Third Age in Hawthorn and representing the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (dentistry) as a member of the Committee of Convocation of the University of Melbourne. He continues to play tennis each week.

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