

Nick Albatis



The School of Dentistry has greatly impacted my life. I would have to say one of the most enjoyable parts of my career has been my involvement with the School as a clinical tutor, over a period spanning nearly 30 years. It was a great honour when Professor Cock (former Dean, and Head of Restorative Dentistry) invited me to join the School's staff. I recall Professor Cock saying "He who aims for perfection rarely achieves it, and those aiming for mediocrity often achieve something far less!"

It's probably sad to say that rather than the dental profession changing my life, to a great degree (other than my family) the Dental Profession is my life. I probably should add that I met my wife at the Dental School.

I recall with pride the moment at the Informal Graduation Ceremony in the foyer of the old Dental School in Wellington Street. It was not long after final exams and the Dean, Professors, and Senior Lecturers would extend their hand and say "Congratulations Nick, welcome to the Profession!" It was the first time we had been addressed by our Christian names and it dawned upon me that I had "arrived" as a Dentist and was now part of the profession. This is one of many treasured memories. We had experienced four tough, stressful years, we had fun as well, and it was all worth it in the end.

To the students, I'd say: You'll only get out of your profession what you put into it. Get involved, and the rewards will be there. On the flip side, and in the words of Gordon Kirkness "It's only a tooth, there's more to life than dentistry!" Try and have a life outside of Dentistry!!