Special Edition: Paediatric Dentistry
new non-profit website transforms volunteering

New organisation, DentalVolunteer, is the first known website to specifically connect dental professionals with global dental volunteering opportunities.

Founder and president, Neil Patel, says the organisation was started in response to frustration from motivated dental professionals who wanted to find a volunteering opportunity that fitted their schedules and specific preferences.

"Until now most dental professionals were limited in their scope of volunteer locations, the dental procedures they performed and the amount of hours they could ultimately volunteer."

He says while the website was only launched in November 2005, it has received an overwhelmingly positive response from all corners of the globe including Greece, Tonga, Niger, UK, Brazil and Australia.

"Since its launch, thousands of visitors have flocked to the site to search for and add new volunteering opportunities, and already it has the largest online listing of global dental volunteering opportunities."

Non-profit organisations, volunteer dental missions, religious groups, dental school-based groups, individual dentists, dental students and others with a dental volunteering opportunity may add to the website, he says. For more information visit www.dentalvolunteer.com

letter to the editor

The coat of arms

I note in the article "100 Years of Teeth" (NZDA News, 2005) that the slogan for the New Zealand Dental Society (NZDS) is "The Original Teeth." Although used as a logo, it serves a function: it will always remain our Coat of Arms and, historically, may be displayed as such at appropriate occasions.

The Coat of Arms was conceived in 1975 and designed by the late Professor Donald Beck, as described in the July 1970 issue of the New Zealand Dental Journal. The Coat of Arms (entitled to bear arms) was informed the association by Royal Command. Donald Beck reported that "The Coat of Arms of the Association, as it now exists, has been adopted and designed by the Association. It is a symbol of the Association and its members can take pride in it."

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