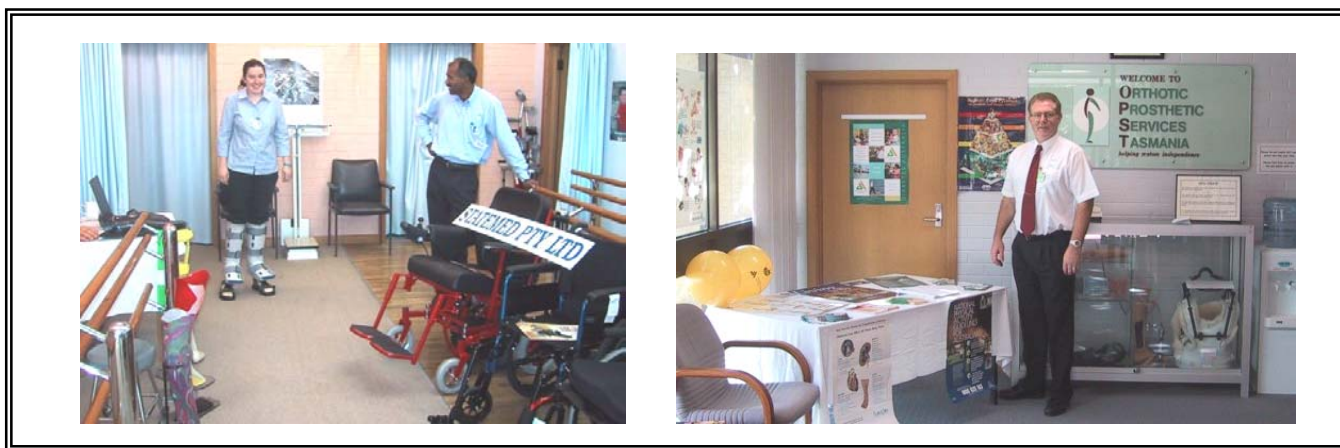


Orthotic Prosthetic Services Tasmania

OPEN DAY



The OPST *Open Day* held in Hobart on Saturday, 29 March was an informative day for all who attended. Amongst the highlights were:

- ◆ a metropolitan bus that allows for wheelchair access (which was put to the test with a number of wheelchairs and a scooters on display)
- ◆ a range of patient information resources
- ◆ a workshop that detailed step-by-step the manufacturing process for various orthoses and prostheses
- ◆ a selection of **REHAB Tech's** research projects and customised devices
- ◆ a demonstration of CAD/CAM capabilities

A number of brave volunteers experimented with the “boots” which allowed you to try on prosthetic feet as well as trialling their driving skills on the array of scooters and wheelchairs available.

Special thanks to Rotary for providing the “sausage sizzle”.

Many thanks also to Weston Wiggins and his team for organizing a successful day.

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Successful thermoplastic fabrication

Successful thermoplastic fabrication relies on a number of factors particularly when working with thick plastic sheets: high quality thermoplastics, a reliable working oven and lots of experiential knowledge of working with plastics. Even then it may require a number of attempts at pulling the plastic over the model before achieving a satisfactory result.

It was therefore refreshing to read in the John Michael's Corner: "Adding Science to Fabrication" <http://www.oandp.com/news/jmcorner/2003-02/2.asp> of an inexpensive infrared digital thermometer (see illustration) that lets you monitor the surface temperature of the plastic in several locations whilst the plastic is being heated.

Normally ovens tend to heat the middle of the plastic sheet much faster than the perimeter and once the plastic sheet becomes clear there is no way to visually tell that it is becoming overheated until it starts to smoke, resulting in hot spots that thin out excessively on application to the model. Using the data from the IR thermometer it's possible to determine the optimal oven setting that will saturate the sheet completely in the shortest period of time without overheating the middle section, thus improving the chances of a successful thermoplastic fabrication. The IR thermometer shown has a built-in laser pointer to indicate where the temperature reading is being taken.



Positions Vacant – Job WATCH

On our website at <http://www.monash.edu.au/rehabtech/employ.htm>

Grade 2 Orthotist/Training Co-Ordinator— Sydney

Excellent opportunity for a Grade One Orthotist seeking to gain further experience in supervision and professional development. Clinical responsibilities include orthotic care of paediatric and adult patients at the Randwick Campus Hospitals. For more information, please visit <http://seh.monster.com.au>
Enquiries: Mr Peter Hawes (02) 9382 8262
[Closing Date: Thursday, 17 April 2003]

Grade 1 Orthotist, Royal North Shore Hospital—Sydney

Ideal for a newly qualified graduate to gain clinical and technical experience in orthotics in spinal rehabilitation, adult, paediatric and ICU. Duties include patient assessments and provision of appropriate orthotic treatment.
Enquiries: Mr Peter Croxall (02) 9926 7467
[Closing Date: Tuesday, 15 April 2003]

COMING EVENTS

1–3 May 2003	Material Science and P&O design - Maximising patient safety - American Academy of Orthotist and Prosthetists Chicago contact REHAB Tech 03 9528 1960
1–4 June 2003	XV. International INTERBOR Congress and Exhibition 15th International INTERBOR Congress on Prosthetics and Orthotics. Budapest, Hungary. URL: http://www.INTERBOR2003.hu

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