

# EVENTS THAT MADE CHIROPRACTIC

The year 2020

## 125 years since the first chiropractic adjustment

Most interpretations of the historical records report the first chiropractic adjustment occurring on 19 September 1895. One or two authors interpret this matter to a different, if vague, date. The greater majority of the global chiropractic profession are content to accept 19 September and a number of education institutions strengthen their connection to the profession for students by celebrating this date. Source: Dr Rolf E. Peters, Editor Emeritus Chiropractic Journal of Australia, Executive Editor Asia-Pacific Chiropractic Journal.

Quick Tap or Scan:



## 110 years since the introduction of X-ray to the Palmer School

One-hundred and ten years ago, in February 1910, X-ray services were introduced at the Palmer School of Chiropractic. Source: Peters RE. \$2.00 per Xray Plate and More: The Year that was 1910. Chiropr J Aust. 2010;40:170-9.

## '1920 marked the start of an era of persecution ...'

This is the opinion of Keith Simpson who earned his PhD by examining the history of medical interference with chiropractic in Australia. You can read his paper in which he reports this impression of the year 1920 here: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3299614/> You may read his full thesis here: <https://espace.library.uq.edu.au/view/UQ:105997>

On the other hand Bolton, a noted historian of chiropractic in Australia, held a more positive view, reporting '*the Dawn Period (1905-1919); the Establishment Period (1919-1945); the Statutory Recognition Period (1945-1961); and the Legislative Period (1961-1985)*'. He added '*From about 1919, the integrity of chiropractic as a new and unique profession was underpinned by three fundamental principles.*' Bolton SP. A retrospective view of historical periods in Australian Chiropractic History. Chiropr J Aust. 2006;36:1-16, and Getting on Top 'Down Under': Australian Chiropractic history revisited. Chiropr Hist. 2005;25(2):35-44.

Historian Senzon considered the period from 1905 to 1924 the 'Classical Period' from the perspective of American chiropractic history. Senzon SA. Chiropractic professionalization and accreditation: An exploration of the history of conflict between worldviews through the lens of developmental structuralism. J Chiropr Humanit. 2014;21:25-48. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4245701/pdf/main.pdf>

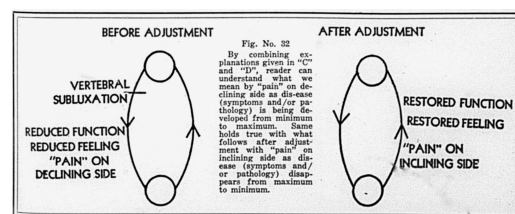
Yet another, Linhart, cited by Simpson, considered the period 1906 to 1920 as the 'Golden Age' where BJ 'sold' the concept of '*The Big Idea*'. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/2045-709X-20-1>

## New Zealand Chiropractors' Association

'By 1920 the New Zealand Chiropractor's Association (NZCA) was formed, and in 1924 the merits of chiropractic were already the subject of debate within the walls of New Zealand's House of Representatives.' Wilton L. Reader, 'History of Chiropractic in New Zealand', NZCC, Auckland. New Zealand Parliamentary Debates (NZPD), 1924, 204, 1070-72. Refer <http://www5.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/ANZLawHistell/2013/5.pdf>

Peters clarifies: 'The New Zealand Chiropractic Association (NZCA) was formed in 1920. Nine members were present at the inaugural general meeting held on 29 December 1920. The first President was Thomas Giles, who served in that office for only one year. He was followed by Dr J.A. Scott, who was also a lawyer. He held that position until 1935.' (Reader WL, Bryner P. The Development of Chiropractic in New Zealand, 1910-1980. Chiropr Hist 1989;9(1):17-21) Citing Van Gent (Van Gent. The science by which the cause of disease is removed by spinal adjustments: Chiropractic in early twentieth century in New Zealand. Chiropr Hist 2013;33(2):37-55) Peters adds 'At the December 1921 AGM it was decided that the Association should be registered under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. One of the NZCA's first concerns was to have members gather intelligence on the "prevalence of 'mixing' amongst chiropractors or those calling themselves Chiropractors," as there were advertisements that stated: Licensed physician, USA; Expert Dietician; Osteopath and Chiropractor. The NZCA found this sort of behaviour unacceptable and did not recognise anyone practising anything additional to chiropractic as a true chiropractor.' Source: Peters RE. Chiropractic in New Zealand: 1914 – The First Palmer Graduate Arrives. Chiropr Hist. 2015;35(2):7-18.

The Association itself gives its commencement date at February 1922 <https://www.chiropractic.org.nz/about-us/history-of-nzca/>. The Editor notes BJ Palmer, the notional leader of mainstream straight chiropractic visited New Zealand in 1930.



Source: Palmer BJ. The known man. The Chiropractor. 1938;34(7):2-5, 29-31. Editor's collection.

## Welcome, France

The first North-American educated chiropractors known to have practised in France arrived in 1920 and since then chiropractors could be found throughout Europe Rouy B, *Chiropractic in France: Chiropractic in Europe. An illustrated history*. Edited by: Wilson FJH. 2007, Leicester, UK: Matadour, 80-3. See <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/2045-709X-19-23>

## Not so good in California

The California chiropractors' 1920 initiative effort to achieve a licensing law was not successful (390,240 votes for vs. 402,410 votes against), and medical efforts to arrest and incarcerate chiropractors continued See Keating JC, Phillips RB. A History of Los Angeles Chiropractic College. 2001 at Chiropr Hist 2001;21(2):9-11.

## Lyndon McCash DC jailed

Indeed, Dr McCash was but one of hundreds of California chiropractors incarcerated for unlicensed practice prior to the passage of the Chiropractic Act in 1922. Source: <https://www.brianesty.com/bodywork/PDF/Chiropractic%20History.pdf> with thanks to Peter Rome.

### 94 years since the founding of the International Chiropractors Association

Established in 1926 in Davenport, Iowa, USA by Dr BJ Palmer, the *International Chiropractors Association* (ICA) is the world's oldest international chiropractic professional organisation representing practitioners, students, chiropractic assistants, educators and lay persons world-wide. The ICA is dedicated to the growth and development of the chiropractic profession based on [and developed from] Dr Palmer's fundamental belief in the principle and philosophy of chiropractic as a unique, separate, distinct and drugless health care profession. Source: International Chiropractors Association. Home / History accessed 19 April 2020 at <http://www.chiropractic.org/about/history/>

In the mid-1980s there was a major campaign for members of the *American Chiropractic Association* (founded 1963) to join the ICA. The rationale was to both free up the name, 'International' Chiropractors Association, so that a new organisation could be formed to represent the profession at the World level, and to have for the first time, one united voice for the profession in the United States. The attempt failed and the profession reached a consensus in London, in 1987, to create the *World Federation of Chiropractic*. Source: Wikipedia accessed 19 April 2020 at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Chiropractors\\_Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Chiropractors_Association)

### 31 years since the formalisation of the World Federation of Chiropractic

The first Council meeting of the WFC was held in Toronto, Canada August 31 to September 2, 1989 attended by delegates from 7 world regions elected for a three-year term. Dr. Gary Auerbach (North America), Dr. Christoph Diem (Europe) and Dr. John Sweaney (Pacific), were elected as President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer. A Research Council was established, chaired by Dr. Scott Haldeman, USA. A Secretariat was established in Toronto with Mr. David Chapman-Smith as Secretary-General. Source: WFC. Home / History accessed 19 April 2020 at [https://www.wfc.org/website/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=89&Itemid=87&lang=en](https://www.wfc.org/website/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=89&Itemid=87&lang=en)

### 30 years since the 'new' Australian Chiropractors' Association

Formed by uniting the *Chiropractors' Association of Australia (National)* (CAAN) and the *United Chiropractors' Association of Australasia* (UCAA) in 1990, the first annual report of the resultant ACA (Australia) was published in 1991. John Sweeney AM, DC was one of the driving forces for amalgamation and the new association's first Executive Director. The 1991 Annual Report spoke of 'a new organisation with *'the opportunity to assess the profession's strengths and weaknesses ... and to design a comprehensive strategic plan for the future.'* Source: In the beginning .... The Australian Chiropractor [Newsletter]. 2020;April:32-3. Of course, the CAAN was itself a merger of the original ACA and the original, complete UCAA. The original ACA was founded in 1938, 82 years ago, making it in total only 12 years younger than the ICA (see above). The denial of this history by the current ACA is a concern. (Editor. From the archives: President's Message. The Australian Chiropractor. 2020;May:24-5.)

Mid-1938 BJ Palmer was promoting his illustrative 'safety-pin cycle' (pic, next page) and in Sydney, Stanley W Bolton DC, PhC, and Mariette G Bolton, DC, PhC practiced from Somerset House at 9 Martin Place; R C M and D Searby practiced from Suite 906 in the Government Savings Bank Building at 14 Castlereagh St; and KM and KP Fraser D's C, from the National Mutual Building at 350 George Street. All utilised the Neurocalometer and offered an X-Ray service. Source: Documents held in the Editor's library.

The initial iteration of the NZCA included Australians but that quickly changed as the few Australian chiropractors did not engage with it. They came to establish their own *Australian*



*Chiropractors Association (ACA)* in 1938. The formation meeting for the ACA was held Friday, September 2, 1938 following a meeting of interested mainstream chiropractors held in Sydney on Monday, 15th August 1938. Source Peters RE. An early history of chiropractic. The Palmers and Australia. [Masters Thesis], RMIT University, 2014:463-4.

## 25 years since the opening of the Tokyo College of Chiropractic

After a meeting of the Japanese Chiropractic Association (JCA) in Sendai, in 1994 to endorse the venture, *The Tokyo College of Chiropractic* accepted its first students in April 1995. Originally opened as an extension of the Department of Chiropractic of RMIT University Melbourne, called *The RMIT Chiropractic Unit Japan*, the program grew to come to stand on its own and was formally renamed the *Tokyo College of Chiropractic*. A key figure in the development of the program was the late Kazu Takeyachi (R) whose insistence on an international standard program has been borne out through the program gaining and retaining full accreditation with the *Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia (CCEA)*. An important contribution to raising the standard of chiropractic in Japan

was the provision of a *Chiropractic Conversion* program which standardised practitioners to an international standard in accord with the *WHO Training Guidelines*. Source: TCC History archives.

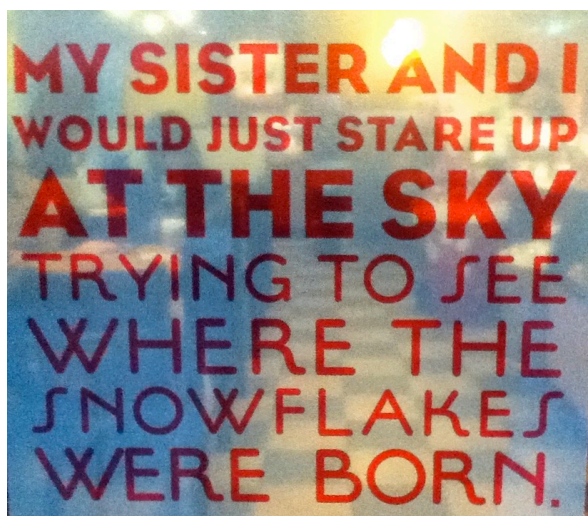


Dr Kazu in the reception area of a graduate's clinic, Tokyo, 2005



Dr Kazu with his wife pictured at the Imperial Palace, Tokyo, 2009

A contemporary interpretation of the idea that drove the establishment of Australia's first mainstream chiropractic program, written in 1975 on a wall at *Senora House* in Little Collins St Melbourne, the first home of the ICC program. Dr Stanley Martin wrote words to the effect of not starting a major project with a half-baked idea. Chiropractic has been driven by the big dreams of many men on whose shoulders we stand every day. We must never forget their gift to us.



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