

Historical Collections

The Historical Collections Committee wish to sincerely thank all Fellows and Friends of the College who continue to support the Historical Collections, both financially and through donations of rare and valuable items. This year, donations to the Friends of the College Collection amounted to a total of \$5350 and the College gratefully acknowledges the generosity of those donors. Donations of items to the Collections included antiquarian books, MRCOG case records, instruments, photographs, art works and personal papers.

Dr Struan Robertson continued to record oral histories of senior Fellows in New South Wales, providing a valuable historical record of early O and G practice.

The sculpture of a newborn baby, 'Creation and gift', was donated by Dr Bella Ajayoglu and sculpted by her daughter, Anna Meszaros. This is a beautiful addition to the Meszaros bronzes held in the College Collections.

Conservation work was carried out on silk tapestries donated by Dr Jim Roche, a certificate from Prof F J Browne papers, and a 'doctor and stork' print from the 1920s donated by Dr Charles Roseby.

Cataloguing of the Frank Forster Papers in Archives was completed. Personal papers donated during the year included those of Dr Janet Duke, Dr Donald Lawson, Dr Clifton Ryan, Dr June Pash, Dr Terence O'Malley, Dr Michael Simcock, Mr William Chanen and Dr Beryl Collier.

An important new initiative came to fruition in June when the Frank Forster Library catalogue was listed on the Libraries Australia website, which is managed by the National Library of Australia. The database holds the combined catalogues of Australian libraries. This enables Fellows, members, staff and other libraries to search for works held in the Frank Forster Library. This will highlight and promote the depth and importance of our wonderful collection. It will also increase the access and usage of the Library resources.

Investments from the Frank Forster Memorial Fund enabled the following rare books to be purchased:

- Moller-Christensen, Vilhelm
The history of the forceps, 1938
- Gross, Samuel W
A practical treatise on tumours of the mammary gland, 1880
- Gardner, Augustus K
The causes and curative treatment of sterility, 1856
- Astruc, Jean
A treatise on the diseases incident to women, 1743
- Chapman, Edmund
A treatise on the improvement of midwifery, 1753.

Donations to the Frank Forster Library included a rare obstetric classic by Paul Portal, *The compleat practice of men and women midwives*, 1763, donated by Dr Charles Roseby, and collections of books donated by Prof Warren Jones and Dr Janet Duke. The College Museum received some significant donations which included a Sharman kymograph tubal insufflation apparatus donated by Dr John Bates; a Duke stem pessary donated by Mr William Chanen; a Motorola pager donated by Dr Geoffrey Bishop; and two antique syringe kits and other items donated by Dr David Grodski.

The accessioning and cataloguing of recent donations continued in the Museum. The College is grateful to volunteers, Dr Geoffrey Bishop and Ms Helen Johnson, for their assistance with identification of the instruments and associated research.

The Librarian, Mrs Fay Bower, retired at the end of June and we thank her for her fine contribution to the Frank Forster Library. We welcome the new Librarian, Ms Diane Horrigan.

Dr Alastair Haslam
Chair, Historical Collections Committee

Ros Winspear
Archivist/Records Manager

Fay Bower
Librarian

Gráinne Murphy
Museum Curator

Tasmania

The Tasmanian Committee has recently been re-established in June 2008 after a period of relative inactivity. The Committee consists of 11 Fellows who represent almost 30 RANZCOG Fellows, Members and Trainees within the state of Tasmania.

College representation on various Tasmanian women's health committees is ongoing. There is currently much debate in public, media and medical circles on the planned redevelopment of the Royal Hobart Hospital, Tasmania's only tertiary-level hospital. College input into this project via the Tasmanian Committee has been significant.

Dr Rupert Sherwood has represented Tasmania on Council and has been very active in various committees. He has provided Tasmanian Fellows with regular feedback on College and Council activities.

A Regional Scientific Meeting is being planned for early 2009. This will be the first regional scientific meeting in Tasmania for some years and will provide a venue for Trainee research projects to be presented.

An ongoing challenge for the rejuvenated Tasmanian Committee will be to maintain its relevance and momentum within the sphere of women's health in Tasmania.

Dr Warren Kennedy
Secretary, Tasmanian Regional Committee