

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

New Zealand

In 2008 the New Zealand Committee held a very successful ASM in Hamilton, New Zealand, attracting a large number of overseas Fellows.

Major achievements and initiatives involving the New Zealand Committee this year include:

- Contributions to the maternity policy under the Ministry's Maternity Strategic Services Advisory Group, with Dr Gillian Gibson as the New Zealand Committee representative on this Advisory Group.
- The continuing work of the New Zealand Committee's Workforce Advisory Group, which has been addressing the supervisory arrangements for International Medical Graduates in New Zealand, along with identifying the basic workforce issues that need to be addressed over coming years. The Group continues to be chaired by Dr Ken Clark (Past President of RANZCOG).
- Instituting a long-term investment strategy that will ensure research funding for New Zealand Trainees and Fellows.
- Ongoing dialogue with the New Zealand College of Midwives, with a Memorandum of Understanding signed in August 2008.

In 2007, 14 practice visits were held, a continuing success for peer review of New Zealand O and G practices that benefits all practitioners visited with a non-regulatory reporting process, identifying areas of strength and weakness that the practitioner can build on, along with 25 PR&CRM points. A smaller number are being completed in 2008. This brings the overall visit completion rate to nearly 70 per cent of New Zealand Fellows.

A recent document from the Resident Doctor's Association (RDA) has asked the New Zealand Committee to consider whether rotations to different training hospitals for our O and G Trainees is required. This will be discussed by the New Zealand Training Accreditation Committee before an official response is provided.

There have been a number of approaches from the New Zealand Ministry of Health over the past 12 months, in the areas of the Long-term System Framework, Anti-D rophylaxis, National Screening Unit initiatives and other related consultation documents concerning the wider medical profession. Similarly, the New Zealand Committee has discussed a number of different matters with the Medical Council of New Zealand, such as remote supervision and peer review.

Dr Gillian Gibson

Chair, New Zealand Committee

Steve Williams

Executive Officer, New Zealand Office

New South Wales

The New South Wales Regional Committee is comprised of 14 Fellows, two Trainee representatives and one Diplomate representative, serving over 1100 College Fellows, Members, Trainees and Diplomates.

Educational activities are a core function of the Committee. The MRANZCOG OSCE pre-examination Course was held in September 2007, with 22 Trainees from Australia and New Zealand attending. A five-day MRANZCOG Pre-Examination course was held in October 2007 for 50 Trainees. A four-day DRANZCOG Revision Course for general practitioners was held in December 2007 with 26 GPs attending.

This year, the NSW Education Subcommittee introduced 'Educational Evenings' for Fellows. The first evening was held in March 2008, based around the topic 'How to manage complaints: A presentation by the Health Care Complaints Commission'. The Health Care Complaints Commissioner addressed 32 NSW Fellows. Members of the Education Subcommittee attended the Australian Medical Association (NSW) Careers Exhibition in May 2008.

From 47 applicants, 27 first year registrars were appointed to the College training program for 2008. Training of registrars in the private sector and private hospitals in NSW has begun.

The NSW Historical Collections Subcommittee continues to take oral histories from retired NSW Fellows.

The situation with regard to O and G services in the rural sector remains a great concern and NSW is become increasingly reliant on Overseas Trained Specialists (OTS) filling Area of Need (AoN) positions to minimise the closure of maternity units. The evolution of midwife-only obstetric units continues.

The Institute of Medical Education and Training (IMET) has continued its working relationship with the NSW Regional Committee with the aim of guaranteeing a sustainable O and G service for NSW women.

A submission was prepared for the Special Commission of Inquiry into Acute Care Services in NSW Public Hospitals by the directors of obstetrics and stream directors of the major teaching hospitals in NSW, on behalf of the NSW Regional Committee.

A/Prof Christopher Benness

Chair, New South Wales Regional Committee

Lee Dawson

Executive Officer, New South Wales Regional Office

Victoria

The Victorian Regional Committee continues to represent the interests of Fellows, Diplomates and Trainees in obstetrics and gynaecology in Victoria. Dr Ravi Kashyap has taken on the role of Chair after four years as Treasurer. Dr Amber Moore has left the Committee after an outstanding contribution on the Education Subcommittee and we now welcome Dr Emily Olive.

The Committee has been approached by the Department of Human Services (DHS) Ministerial Advisory Committee on Surgical Services (MACSS) and Victorian Surgical Consultative Council (VSCC) to nominate representatives for obstetricians and gynaecologists. We are grateful to Dr Tom Manolitsas and Dr Geoff Edwards for accepting the nominations to these committees.

Diploma courses were held in February and July, attracting over 60 registrants. We thank Dr Liz Uren for her efforts as clinical advisor and are grateful for the valuable contribution of all the presenters, who generously provided their time and knowledge. Practical sessions were held on the use of Mirena and Implanon, and Newborn and paediatric Emergency Transport Services (NETS) coordinated a neonatal resuscitation session. The annual Membership revision course was held over five days in April with 45 registrants. Dr Emily Olive was the clinical supervisor and feedback from participants was very favourable.

Interest in specialist training in obstetrics and gynaecology in Victoria remains strong, with many inquiries received by our representatives at the Victorian Medical Postgraduate Foundation Medical Careers Expo and the Australian Medical School Association (AMSA) Careers Fair. There are currently 104 registered Victorian Trainees with the assistance of 48 training supervisors. Of these Trainees, 22 are in rural positions. For the 23 positions available, 75 applications were received and the successful applicants are of an excellent standard.

Dr Stephen Tong has taken on the task of organising our annual dinner this year. The formal part of the evening follows the Annual General Meeting and includes Trainee research presentations, followed by the award of the Organon Prize. In addition, this year we have added an afternoon session for the Trainees to present their projects in progress to their fellow Trainees.

This year, the Victorian Regional Committee has also taken on the administration of the Tasmanian Regional Committee.

Dr Ravi Kashyap

Chair, Victorian Regional Committee

Fran Watson

Executive Officer, Victorian Regional Office

Queensland

The work of the Queensland Regional Committee has continued throughout 2007 and 2008, offering Fellows, Trainees and Diplomates a number of opportunities to be involved with the College through ongoing education, together with the chance to contribute to external committees concerned with obstetrics and gynaecology.

Queensland was the host region for the 2007 RANZCOG Annual Scientific Meeting held at the Gold Coast in October and congratulations is extended to all who participated in the organisation and conduct of this meeting.

Fellows have represented the College on various committees throughout the year, including hospital credentialing, the Maternity Services Stakeholder Group and the State Maternal and Neonatal Network. An area of particular interest to the Committee is that of quality councils and the role that the Health Quality and Complaints Commission (HQCC) have in reviewing maternal deaths. The Committee met with the Commissioner of the HQCC in August to discuss this and sought to have College involvement in further deliberations.

Interest in specialist training in obstetrics and gynaecology remains strong. The Queensland Training Accreditation Committee were pleased to receive a record number of applications for entry into the Integrated Training Program. Once again, 18 first-year positions have been made available. Trainees commencing in 2008 were invited to an information evening held in December to provide an opportunity for them to meet their Training Supervisors, other Trainees and to learn about College procedures.

The Annual DRANZCOG Pre-Examination and Update Course continues to provide training for the Diploma of the RANZCOG (DRANZCOG), together with current DRANZCOG holders. This course has experienced an increase in popularity in recent years and is highly valued by those who attend.

Another sought after program is the trial MRANZCOG OSCE Course, which was conducted in March. This course, available to Trainees who are eligible to sit their MRANZCOG Oral Examination, is designed to simulate the actual OSCE. Thanks to the generosity of Fellows in volunteering their time to act as examiners, the Committee was able to double the numbers of Trainees who were able to attend the course this year.

The end of the financial year saw the hosting of the 2008 Queensland/New South Wales ASM. This meeting, held in June at the Hyatt Regency Coolom, was once again an extremely successful meeting, both from an educational and Fellowship viewpoint.

Thanks is extended to all who have been involved in the activities of the Queensland Regional Committee throughout the past year.

Dr Paul Howat

Chair, Queensland Regional Committee

Lee-Anne Harris

Executive Officer, Queensland Regional Office

South Australia/ Northern Territory

The SA/NT DRANZCOG Pre-Examination Course and GP Update was held from 27 to 29 June 2008. It was a very successful course with 24 candidates registered. Approximately half of the registrants were from rural areas and several were from interstate.

The third South Australia Medical Careers Expo was held on 25 May 2008 and was again a great success, with approximately 300 delegates visiting the exhibition area and attending the seminar presentations. Staff on the RANZCOG booth were kept busy speaking to prospective trainees in O and G.

This year, the SA/NT Regional Annual Dinner was held at The Trak on 24 August 2007. The event was attended by 72 people. All enjoyed the superb food and excellent service, followed by an entertaining speech delivered by the Hon Alexander Downer, MP.

During the year, planning for the 2010 RANZCOG Annual Scientific Meeting commenced, under the chairmanship of Dr Chris Hughes and Dr Jodie Dodd.

Planning was undertaken for a 2008 SA/NT Regional Scientific Meeting. The theme will be *Sink or Swim: O and G Dilemmas, Controversies and Solutions*, to be held from 7 to 9 November at the Stamford Grand Adelaide at Glenelg. The Registrars Presentations Session and the awarding of the John O'Loughlin Medal will again be integral to the meeting.

In 2007, four first year Trainees were appointed to the SA/NT Integrated Training Program (ITP) for 2008, following a record number of applicants, including many from interstate Australia and New Zealand. Applications were of an extremely high standard.

Dr Christine Kirby

Chair, SA/NT Regional Committee

Judith Hamilton

Executive Officer, SA/NT Regional Office

Western Australia

In July 2007, the Western Australia (WA) Regional Office celebrated their Annual Dinner and Dance. The theme of the event was 'Winter Wonderland'. We were pleased to welcome RANZCOG President, Dr Christine Tippet, to the occasion. Dr Tippet presented WA Fellow, Dr Tony McCartney, with an award in recognition of 32 years of service as a gynaecological oncologist to King Edward Memorial Hospital, Perth. Dr McCartney also served with the Western Australia Gynaecological Cancer Service for 17 years. He retired from both of these positions in December 2007. Dr Tippet also attended a morning tea to meet informally with the WA Fellows and discuss issues of interest.

WA received a strong field of candidates for the Integrated Training Program (ITP) for 2009. There was keen interest expressed by medical graduates at a Medical Careers Expo held on 12 March 2008, where 350 people from various scientific faculties attended the evening session.

A 'State of the Art Symposium' was held in Perth from 15 to 16 February 2008. The theme of the event was 'Cutting Edge'. The symposium was focused around the areas of gynaecology, oncology, endoscopy and obstetric haemorrhage. Dr Tony McCartney was the 'Guest of Honour'. The event brought together colleagues from throughout Australia, New Zealand and further abroad, as well as colleagues who had worked with Dr McCartney. The Organising Committee, comprised of Dr Louise Farrell, Prof Ian Hammond, Dr Krish Karthigasu and Dr Yee Leung, brought together an outstanding program consisting of speakers from WA, interstate and internationally, culminating in a 'James Bond' themed celebratory dinner to mark the occasion and to honour Dr McCartney for his outstanding contribution to women's health services in Western Australia. Once again, we were able to welcome President, Dr Christine Tippet, to join in the celebrations.

The Regional Committees Forum, held at College House, Melbourne, on 18 April 2008, afforded some useful exchange between all participants and was attended by WA Regional Committee Chair, Dr Tamara Walters, Treasurer, Dr Michael Gannon, and Executive Officer, Janet Davidson.

Dr Tamara Walters

Chair, Western Australia Regional Committee

Janet Davidson

Executive Officer, Western Australia Regional Office