



# Provincial Fellows ConneXion

## NOVEMBER RANZCOG Council Report

As the incoming Chair of the Provincial Fellows Committee I would like to thank Dr Tony Geraghty for his excellent contribution as Committee Chair over the past six years. Tony has worked tirelessly to highlight the unique challenges of provincial practice, and played a major role in the establishment of the Provincial Integrated Training Program in 2014, which is now offered in Orange and Dubbo and soon to be offered in Mackay.

It is also my pleasure to welcome to Dr Jared Watts from Broome, WA, as the newly elected Provincial Fellows Representative on Council.

### Council and Board

The first meeting of the Tenth RANZCOG Council was held in November 2016 in Melbourne and Professor Steve Robson was inducted as College President together with ten new Councillors. Professor Michael Permezel was thanked for his distinguished service as President over the past four years.

Members of the new Board are Dr Vijay Roach, Professor Ian Symonds and Dr John Tait as Vice Presidents, Dr Ben Bopp as Treasurer and Dr Celia Devenish and Professor Yee Leung as the other elected Board Members.

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**Please join us for the...**

**Provincial Fellows/  
Victorian/Tasmanian  
Annual Scientific Meeting**

**PF/VIC/TAS ASM**

**6 – 9 April 2017  
Albury / Wodonga**

[www.ranzcog2017pfvictasasm.org.au](http://www.ranzcog2017pfvictasasm.org.au)

## RANZCOG Board

**President**  
Prof Steve Robson

**Vice-Presidents**  
Dr Vijay Roach  
Prof Ian Symonds  
Dr John Tait

**Treasurer**  
Dr Benjamin Bopp

**Board Members**  
Dr Celia Devenish  
Prof Yee Leung

## Tenth RANZCOG Council

**Australian Capital Territory**  
A/Prof Boon Lim

**New South Wales**  
Dr Naim Arrage  
Dr Louis Izzo  
Dr Tanya Nippita  
A/Prof Janet Vaughan

**New Zealand**  
Dr Gillian Gibson  
Dr Ian Page  
Dr Craig Skidmore

**Provincial Fellows**  
A/Prof Ian Pettigrew  
Dr Jared Watts

**Queensland**  
Dr Tal Jacobson  
Dr William Milford

**South Australia / Northern Territory**  
A/Prof Rosalie Grivell  
Dr Roy Watson

**Tasmania**  
Dr Frank O'Keefe

**Victoria**  
Dr Alison Fung  
Dr John Regan  
Dr Joseph Sgroi  
Dr Bernadette White

**Western Australia**  
Dr Kristy Milward  
Dr Scott White

### Constitutional Changes

Revisions to the Constitution were made to establish:

- three-year terms of office for Board Members and Councillors (instead of the current two-year terms of office); and
- aligned maximum terms of office for Board Members and Councillors of two three-year terms, subject to the right to serve one additional three-year term as President.

The revised terms of office will apply to Board Members and Councillors elected at the 2018 Annual General Meeting.

Professor Permezel provided feedback about the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review and proposed changes in obstetric items; gynae items are currently being reviewed.

Professor Permezel also informed Councillors of the steps the College has taken in order to ensure a safe working environment for all trainees, Fellows, and College staff. A working party has been established following the survey of College trainees and Fellows about workplace behaviour and environment.



[www.climate.edu.au](http://www.climate.edu.au)

RANZCOG's **CLIMATE** eLearning site is an online portal for multimedia-based **learning resources**, which can be accessed via your mobile (cell) phone, tablet, laptop or computer.

For assistance with accessing CLIMATE resources please contact Angie Spry, Coordinator, Provincial Fellows via email: [aspry@ranzcoг.edu.au](mailto:aspry@ranzcoг.edu.au)

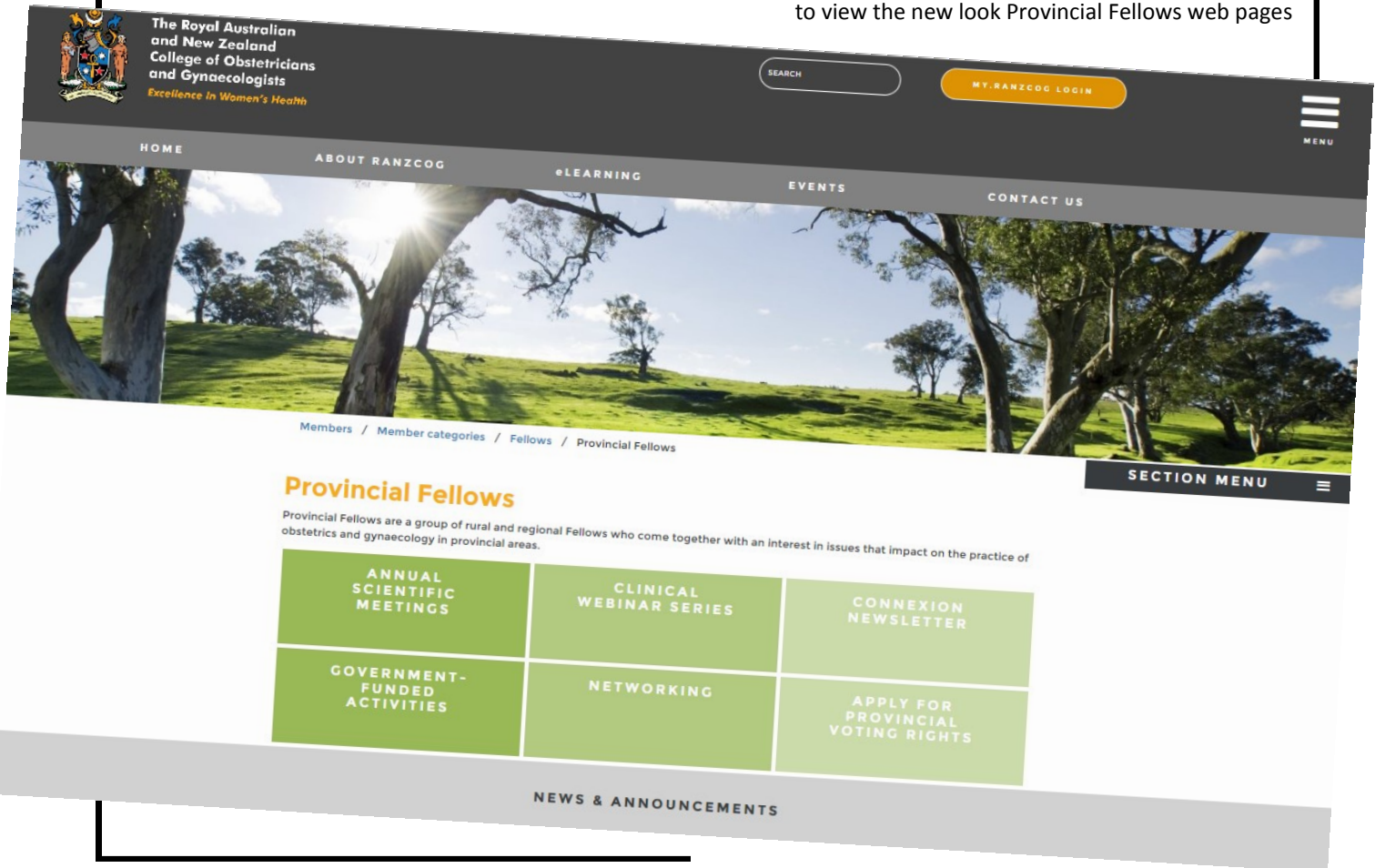
### Revalidation

Dr Joanna Flynn, Chair of the Medical Board of Australia (MBA), addressed Councillors and RANZCOG staff about the challenge of revalidation, and assurance was given that in Australia revalidation would be totally different from the UK experience.

# The RANZCOG website has a new look...

[www.ranzcog.edu.au/members/Member-categories/Fellow/Provincial-Fellows](http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/members/Member-categories/Fellow/Provincial-Fellows)

The RANZCOG website has recently undergone some changes, follow the above link to view the new look Provincial Fellows web pages



## Committee Reports

Numerous committees are involved with the functions of the College. The major ones are the Education and Assessment Committee, Training Accreditation Committee, Women's Health Committee, and CPD and Revalidation Committee. Highlights in these areas include:

- 206 candidates sat the Oral Exams in May and October, the large number probably being due to the change in regulations that enables trainees to sit the exam earlier. Of the 106 sitting the exam in October there was an 86% pass rate. Ten of the 106 candidates were Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs)
- 43 candidates sat the Diploma (DRANZCOG) Oral Exam in September with a pass rate of 77%. Future assessment for the DRANZCOG is to be by written exam and In Hospital assessment. Candidates for the DRANZCOG Advanced will need to have their DRANZCOG and then sit an Oral exam together with completing their log book requirements.
- An updated Basic Surgical Skills Training resource manual and online surgical skills support modules have been developed and are now available on CLIMATE. Also developed is the new Basic Obstetric Skills Workshop and trainee manual (also available on CLIMATE).
- Curriculum developments include a curriculum for pre-vocational training which is being established for doctors who may wish to develop their O&G skills before they have finished postgraduate year two (PGY2); and a recommended curriculum for universities to adopt for undergraduates.
- Forty trainees were recommended for elevation to Fellowship at the November Council meeting.
- Twenty nine hospitals had received accreditation visits in 2016. Nine hospitals received full accreditation for four years, five received provisional accreditation for four years, the rest provisional accreditation for two years or less. Forty one sites are scheduled for accreditation visits in 2017.



The 2017 Provincial Fellows Clinical Webinar Series program is currently being organised and will be publicised out to Provincial Fellowship early in 2017. The first webinar scheduled for 2017 is shown below.

Past webinars may be found on the CLIMATE e-learning site [www.climate.edu.au](http://www.climate.edu.au)

Date	Topic	Speaker
28 March 2017 8pm AEDT	<i>The Renewed Australian Cervical Screening Program: What Gynaecologists Need to Know</i>	<b>Adj Professor Annabelle Farnsworth, Honorary Fellow</b> Medical Director, Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology, Sydney, NSW

- At the November Women’s Health Committee Meeting the following statements were reviewed and subsequently approved by Board:
  - *Delivery of the Fetus at Caesarean Section* (C-Obs 37)
  - *Substance Use in Pregnancy* (C-Obs 55)
  - *Polypropylene Vaginal Mesh Implants for Vaginal Prolapse* (C-Gyn 20)
  - *Obstetricians and Childbirth* (C-Obs 1) was retired.



program and registration details please see the meeting website at [www.ranzcog2017pfvictasasm.org.au](http://www.ranzcog2017pfvictasasm.org.au) The Provincial Fellows’ portion of event profit will be used toward the cost of the Practice Visits program for 2017.

Aside from the ASM, the PFs Committee is planning two important activities for 2017. The first is the Webinar series which will start in March 2017 and the second is the Practice Visits program. Practitioners who are interested in either being visited or being a visitor are encouraged to register their interest with Angie Spry, Coordinator, Provincial Fellows via email: [asp@ranzcog.edu.au](mailto:asp@ranzcog.edu.au) as soon as possible. Visits cost about \$5,000 each, based on this year’s experience, and as there is no Commonwealth funding available, visits will have to be funded by participants with possibly a limited contribution from the College.

PFs are encouraged to think about the value for money of this project as all the required Practice Audit and Reflection (PAR) points can be achieved from one visit with little interference with one’s practice. I hope you all give this consideration as Practice Visits are a truly worthwhile activity, especially for provincial practitioners. In New Zealand about 80% of Fellows have had a practice visit.

### Provincial Fellows Matters

As you may be aware the Provincial Fellows represent about 10% of the Fellowship and care for >20% of women in Australia. It was for this reason that the Provincial Fellows Committee was established. There are some “criteria” to determine who is and who isn’t a Provincial Fellow (PF) and these tend to change according to the Commonwealth Government from time to time.

As a PF you can opt to be a voting member for the PF Committee and vote for the PFs representatives on Council and be involved in other provincial specific activities. At present, there are about 160 PFs who are not voting PFs and as incoming Chair of the PF Committee it is my aim to make contact with all eligible PFs to inform them of the benefits of applying for the PF vote.

The Provincial Fellows will hold a joint scientific meeting with the Victorian and Tasmanian Regional Committees, **RANZCOG 2017 Provincial Fellows/Victorian/ Tasmanian Annual Scientific Meeting (PF/VIC/TAS ASM)** from 6 - 9 April 2017 in Albury/Wodonga. For

## Support for Rural Specialists in Australia (SRSA) Program

<http://ruralspecialist.org.au>

The Commonwealth Department of Health and the Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges have signed a three year funding agreement in 2016 to provide new funding for rural specialists to undertake CPD and upskilling through the Support for Rural Specialists in Australia (SRSA) program.

A series of grant funding rounds for individual medical specialists will be released under the new agreement. Funding Round 1 is anticipated to be announced in 2017. Details may be viewed via [www.ruralspecialist.org.au](http://www.ruralspecialist.org.au)

The College was saddened to learn of the death of Provincial Fellow Dr Debbie Wass, FRANZCOG, COGU. Debbie was a great resource for PFs and many other people involved in delivering care to women of rural Australia, particularly in the Albury-Wodonga region and surrounding towns; we will miss her.

I wish you all the best for the New Year.

**Assoc Professor Ian Pettigrew**  
Chair, Provincial Fellows Committee



**Next RANZCOG Council**

**21 - 24 March 2017**

**Royal Australian and New Zealand College of  
Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG)**

College House | 254-260 Albert Street |  
East Melbourne VIC 3002

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