



Provincial Fellows ConneXion

JULY RANZCOG Council Report

At the recent College Council meeting, a new Board was elected for the Tenth Council of RANZCOG. Prof Stephen Robson had been elected as the incoming President at the previous Council meeting and will undoubtedly be well supported by this group of experienced and able Fellows.

A constitutional change in the voting process for the office bearers has been proposed by the outgoing President Prof Michael Permezel to remove some of the difficulties associated with the split electoral process of voting for the President and Board at separate times. Candidates for Board positions who are unsuccessful may leave Council without appropriate and timely acknowledgment of their contribution to the College. This anomaly could be corrected with the proposed changes which will likely be presented to the fellowship for a vote following November Council.

The ballot for Council elections closes on 26 August 2016 and all Provincial Fellows are asked to vote for the PF representatives on Council. As well, all Fellows who are eligible to vote as PFs are encouraged to register to do so. Please contact Angie Spry at aspry@ranzcof.edu.au to arrange registration.

RANZCOG CEO Alana Killen presented to the College forum the results of a recent survey of Fellows on bullying and harassment in the workplace. No one will be

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SAVE THE DATE

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

PF&VIC/TAS ASM

6 – 9 April 2017

Albury Wodonga

surprised to learn that our Fellows and trainees are not immune from this problem. This has become such an important area for all of us to address coming after the Four Corners program exposing bullying in Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) training. The College has comprehensively reviewed its policy and guidelines on these matters which will be available on the College website.

With regard to the website, the College has engaged Mark Donato, Director, Marketing and Membership to update the College website to improve its useability. He has extensive experience in such work from roles at other Colleges and is responsive to suggestions from Fellows who believe they can make a contribution to this process. He has been approached to develop a platform for PFs to allow on-line communication between PFs similar to RAPID, an on-line global discussion forum on CLIMATE.

At Council the request from the PF Committee for us to have a combined Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) with the Victorian/Tasmanian Regional Committee was granted. The meeting will go ahead in Albury/Wodonga in early April under the guidance of Scott Giltrap. An Organising Committee is in the process of being formed and those who wish to contribute to the meeting either by way of assisting with pre-meeting workshops or scientific content should contact Angie Spry at the College. This occasion presents a great opportunity for us to increase PF attendance at the ASM and restore the meeting to its former prominence.

A second Provincial Integrated Training Program (ITP) has been established in Mackay, QLD under the guidance

of Dr Kathleen Braniff and three applicants have been interviewed for the position. This is another move forward for provincial training and other sites should consider their capabilities and capacity to adopt a local program. It seems clear that the most likely means of being able to restore the provincial workforce is to "grow our own".

During May to June, six practice visits have been undertaken and the reports to those visited Fellows completed. As with previous programs, the feedback has been very positive from both visitors and visited Fellows. The program came in under budget with funds left to be used for more practice visits in the forthcoming year. There has been a presentation by Prof Ian Pettigrew to the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Revalidation Committee on Practice Visits, and as the prospect of revalidation of practice looms, there is the potential that this program may ultimately be rolled out to the wider fellowship. We did it first.

The webinar program will continue over the coming months with a selection of current topics and excellent speakers. All PFs are encouraged to enrol.

As I will be coming off Council in November, this will be my final report to you all as Chair of the PF Committee. I hope that over the past six years I've been able to contribute to the future success of our group of Fellows in some small way. I hope those who follow will enjoy filling the role as much as I have and I wish them every success in their efforts for our collective futures.

Dr Tony Geraghty
Chair, Provincial Fellows Committee

RANZCOG Provincial Fellow, Dr Diane Mohen, wins Queen's Birthday 2016 Honour

Dr Diane Mohen, West Australian Provincial Fellow, received a Public Service Medal in The Queen's Birthday 2016 Honours List. Based in Bunbury since gaining Fellowship in 1996, Dr Mohen has been the driving force behind the delivery of maternity and gynaecological services to women in rural WA. Understanding the need for a collaborative approach to O&G care, Dr Mohen has held senior health services appointments and extensive committee, association and group membership to advance best practice of her specialty for regional WA. See p25 of the Governor-General's official [website](#)



RANZCOG congratulates Dr Mohen!



Below is the remaining program for the 2016 Provincial Fellows Clinical Webinar Series. We are pleased to offer this program of topics important to rural practitioners, presented by Fellows of the College with expertise in these areas. Provincial Fellows will be emailed details of each webinar in the month it is scheduled. We look forward to your participation.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
30 August 2016 8pm AEST	<i>Ultrasound Assessment of the Fetus in the Third Trimester</i>	Dr Patricia Lai FRANZCOG, COGU COGU Subspecialist Obstetrician/Gynaecologist Sydney Ultrasound for Women, Sydney NSW
27 September 2016 8pm AEST	<i>Induction of Labour for the Large for Gestational Age/Macrosomic Baby</i>	Professor Susan Walker FRANZCOG, CMFM Obstetrician / MFM Subspecialist Mercy Hospital for Women, Melbourne VIC
25 October 2016 8pm AEST	<i>Managing Male Infertility (TBC)</i>	Professor Steve Robson FRANZCOG Obstetrician/Gynaecologist John James Medical Centre, Deakin ACT
29 November 2016 8pm AEDT	<i>Obesity and the Management of Gestational Diabetes</i>	Professor Jodie Dodd FRANZCOG, CMFM Obstetrician / MFM Subspecialist Women's & Children's Hospital, Adelaide SA



Next RANZCOG Council
15 - 18 November 2016

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ROALS reflects on 10 years



as the sun sets...

Rural Obstetric and Anaesthetic Locum Scheme (ROALS)

The Rural Obstetric and Anaesthetic Locum Scheme (ROALS) Reflects on Ten Years of Service to Rural Communities

At the end of March 2016 the Australian Government funded Rural Obstetric and Anaesthetic Locum Scheme (ROALS) marked the end of ten years of servicing rural communities, as the program transitioned into a new phase with the commencement of the new Rural Locum Assistance Program (Rural LAP).

Brief History

In 2006 the Australian Government commenced a pilot project with the aim of supporting women living in rural communities by improving access to quality local obstetric care. The Specialist Obstetrician Locum Scheme (SOLS) was born and it was successful in achieving its objectives. In 2008 SOLS was implemented as an ongoing government program and in 2009 it was expanded to support GP obstetricians.

In October 2012, the scheme expanded once again to incorporate the General Practitioner Anaesthetist Locum Scheme (GPALS), and also include specialist anaesthetists and it became known as the **Rural Obstetric and Anaesthetic Locum Scheme (ROALS)**.

At the end of 2015 the Australian Government announced that they would combine three locum programs including the Nursing and Allied Health Rural Locum Scheme (NAHRLS), the Rural Obstetric and Anaesthetic Locum Scheme (ROALS), and the Rural Locum Education Assistance Program (Rural LEAP) to form a new program, the Rural Locum Assistance Program (Rural LAP).

Achievements

The ROALS program has provided over 10,000 days of locum support during its ten years of operation, through over 1,200 locum placements.

Since inception the program has facilitated:

- Over 1,000 obstetric locum placements with 6,855 days of subsidised locum support and 1,856 unsubsidised days; and
- More than 200 anaesthesia locum placements with 1,167 days of subsidised locum support and 278 unsubsidised days.

Benefits

The scheme has provided the following benefits:

- Enhanced access to quality local GP and specialist obstetric and anaesthetic care in rural and remote areas through the provision of a cost-effective and efficient locum support mechanism.
- Sustained safety and quality in rural practice by facilitating access to personal leave, professional development or breaks from on-call commitments for rural and remote obstetricians and anaesthetists.
- Reduced the number of obstetric transfers, and the associated costs, thus providing continuity of service for rural communities.

Thank You

ROALS thanks the Australian Commonwealth Government for its support of the ROALS program and for the outcomes it has brought to communities in rural and remote Australia.