



RANZCOG Coat of Arms

Heraldic Description of the Coat of Arms

Arms

The central feature of the arms is the shield, which is quartered. The 1st and 4th quarters are black and incorporate a five-pointed red mullet (star) lined in silver, representing the Southern Cross as depicted in the New Zealand national flag. The 2nd and 3rd quarters are blue and incorporate a seven-pointed silver star representing the Southern Cross as depicted in the Australian national flag. In the fesse point (middle) of the shield is an Egyptian symbol of regeneration or enduring life—a gold Ankhcross. The helmet above the shield represents the discipline and responsibility of the profession. The torse (wreath) upon the helmet in blue and gold represents night and day indicating that the work of the obstetrician and gynaecologist occurs regardless of the hour.

Crest

The crest above the helmet depicts two hands in gold, which hold aloft a crescent moon in silver and a radiant sun in gold suggesting the dawn of new life as the sun emerges from night to take its pre-eminent place in the sky.

Supporters

The supporters on either side of the shield comprise on the sinister (left) a young woman bearing an infant, representing motherhood and on the dexter (right) side a woman of indeterminate age representing all women. The two figures stand upon a grassy mound with a bed of wattle, an Australian national emblem, and fronds of the silver fern leaf, a New Zealand national emblem.

Motto

The motto 'ab umbris ad lumina vitae' - from shadows to the light of life - symbolises the work of the obstetrician and gynaecologist and the miracle of birth. The original motto of the RACOG has been retained for its relevancy and beauty.

