New president Kingsley Faulkner chaired the June meeting of Council which addressed a number of important issues:

**ACCC submissions support College view**
The ACCC has received a substantial number of submissions from other parties in regard to the College's application for authorisation to continue its roles in training and assessing surgeons. Encouragingly, most have supported the position of the College.

Council is pleased to report that the Federal Government's submission, prepared by the Commonwealth Department of Health, also acknowledges that the College is the most appropriate body to train surgeons.

**New Councillors welcomed.**
Mr Robert Atkinson (South Australia) and Mr Robert Linacre (Tas) were elected to Council.

Assoc Prof Patricia Davidson, Prof Stephen Deane, Mr Russell Stitz, Mr Kingsley Faulkner and Prof Richard West were re-elected.

Mr Daniel Cass and Mr Richard Barnett were co-opted as representatives for paediatrics and plastic and reconstructive surgery. Mr Adrian Anthony was co-opted as convenor, Younger Fellows Forum 2002.

**Service acknowledged**
The presidential portrait of retiring president Bruce Barraclough was unveiled and Bruce was made a member of the Court of Honour.

Antony Green was thanked for his contribution to rural surgery.

**Aid for Timor**
An emergency locum team of an anaesthetist and a surgeon begins in East Timor in July. The specialist team service is expected to begin in September.

**McRae medal**
The inaugural Colin McRae Medal will be awarded in 2002. This award, instigated at the behest of NZ fellows, commemorates the work of the late past president and will recognise and promote the art and science of surgery in New Zealand.

**Structural changes**
The College has dissolved the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery in favour of the new Australasian Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons.

A restructured four-year training program in plastic and reconstructive surgery and a 3+2 maxillofacial surgery sub-specialty module has been adopted.

Ms Anne Casey has taken up the position of library services coordinator. She brings extensive experience in university libraries, medical libraries, on-line environments and on-line information resources.

**Dean of Education**
Prof John Hall has accepted an invitation to become Interim Dean of Education for an initial period of 12 months with a commitment of one day per week. Prof Hall will develop concept papers on education and professional staffing needs. He will work from the education centre he is establishing as part of the CTEC skills centre in Perth.

**Nursing training and numbers**
Council was briefed on this issue and will make a submission to the Senate inquiry into nursing education.

**Council meeting dates**
- Oct 25-26, 2001
- Feb 28-March 1, 2002
- June 27-28, 2002
- October 24-25, 2002

**Education**
GENERAL SURGERY ADVANCED TRAINING PROGRAM

Curriculum and regulations for the new 3+2 General Surgery Advanced Training Program were adopted.

The first three years will be spent in general surgery with the Fellowship examination in October of the third year. On completion of the third year, a Provisional Fellowship will be granted.

The final two years will be spent in one of the specialty areas of:
- GENERAL SURGERY
- RURAL SURGERY
- UPPER GI AND HEPATOBILIARY SURGERY
- COLORECTAL SURGERY
- HEAD AND NECK SURGERY
- ENDOCRINAL SURGERY
- BREAST SURGERY
- TRAUMA
- TRANSPLANTATION

At the end of five years a Fellowship in General Surgery will be awarded, with a certificate in one of the above specialty areas.

This brings general surgery training into line with 21st-century needs and practices.

Continued page 15
Specialist Services For East Timor

AusAid has approved funding of $2m over three years for the RACS to provide specialist support services to East Timor. This is an extension of the considerable work already done by the College and its members in this devastated emerging nation.

Under the decision, announced at the RACS-ASC meeting in Canberra in May, the College has been asked to design and manage the project following the successful “Needs Analysis” visit by an RACS team in February this year.

The project involves placing a second general surgeon for three years, an anaesthetist for one year (with responsibility to train nurse anaesthetists) and to send in specialist teams similar to the Pacific Islands Project.

The teams will include orthopaedics, plastic surgery, ENT, ophthalmology, paediatric surgery, urology and neurosurgery. A closed cardiac surgery visit may be undertaken later in the project when suitable cases are identified.

The visits will generally be for up to a week and there will be about 8-10 surgical teams a year. Most teams will visit Dili though some will go also to Baucau, a treacherous three hour drive East along the North Coast.

There will also be shorter visits of a few days by paediatricians and physicians to support the full-time staff in the development of protocols and to give advice on complex problems.

ASEA Rehab is a plastic surgery charity organization, which has been visiting East and West Timor since 1994. They have a database of over 3500 patients consulted on or treated.

The new RACS East Timor project plans to support and endorse their work rather than seeking to duplicate or replace it. Similarly we plan to contribute to and support the operative part of Nitim Verma’s eye care teams from Darwin who are already providing specialist eye services and are training eye care nurses.

The needs in East Timor are great. Following the vote for independence for East Timor on 30 August 1999, civil unrest led to the displacement of over 300,000 of the 850,000 residents. Hundreds of people were killed and a large proportion of private and public buildings destroyed, including health facilities. In addition to the physical destruction, the emigration from East Timor of doctors and core health professionals – mostly Indonesians – caused the total collapse of the health system.

With the introduction of a peacekeeping force, the United Nations established on 25 October 1999 a United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) with responsibility for the administration of all legislative and executive authority.

Initially UNTAET recruited Dr Jim Tulloch as head of the Division of Health Services (DHS). He was appointed to ensure ownership of the East Timorese Health System by the East Timorese. Since the beginning of 2001 an East Timorese doctor has headed DHS: first Sergio Lobo, the country’s only surgeon, and later, on return from a period of training in New Zealand, the impressive Dr Rui Araja. Jim Tulloch has stayed on as an adviser. He has provided wise, strong and capable leadership.

In March 2000, Australia participated in a World Bank-led design and appraisal mission that agreed to a sector wide approach to rehabilitation and redevelopment of the health care system. In May 2000, a RACS team (David Thelle and John Hargrave) visited Dili. The Division of Health Services subsequently requested AusAID’s assistance with the provision of specialist services. In February this year a RACS team (David Watters, David Scott and Margaret Gosling) visited East Timor to assess the need for a specialist visits to assist East Timor in providing tertiary health services. The team visited DHS, the Dili and Baucau hospitals and some local clinics in the suburbs of Dili.

Dili and Baucau hospitals must provide a full range of services. Their equipment is old and limited. However, despite this over 2300 operations were performed in Dili in the year 2000 and almost 500 in Baucau. On July 1, Dili Hospital was handed over to DHS who have enlisted the help of a Dutch INGO, CordAid. Cordaid will manage the hospital and are sending five expatriate staff – one chief medical officer, one chief nursing officer, one surgeon, one gynaecologist and one anesthetist.

The RACS team in their report strongly recommended a second surgeon and anaesthetist to be posted in Dili hospital. As a result we have been asked to recruit a second surgeon and anaesthetist as part of the specialist services project.

There are only just over 20 East Timorese doctors working in East Timor. There is no local medical training programme and most medical students returned early this year to complete their studies in their former Indonesian Universities, under WHO support. Long-term training of specialists for East Timor will need to be addressed once more local doctors are working in the hospitals and basic skills have been acquired.

Elections are planned for August 30, 2001. Whatever the outcome, DHS are aware that they need outside assistance to deliver specialist services.

The Specialist Services project is expected to start about September. In the interim period DHS have asked RACS to find a locum surgeon until the project begins. The locum may be filled by a series of 2-3 visits. The provision of a locum service is outside the strict terms of the project and will be funded by DHS and also some emergency assistance funds.
The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons was extremely proud of the representation of surgeons in the Queen's Birthday Honours list this June.

**AC (Companion in the Order of Australia)**

**Professor James May**

Professor James May, respected vascular surgeon, has been honoured as a Companion in the Order of Australia. In particular the honour recognises his pioneering efforts developing endoluminal methods for treatment of aortic aneurysms.

Professor May has also made significant contributions in the area of education and training in both Australia and Asia, including special teaching trips to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Seoul, the Philippines and Hong Kong.

Professor May currently holds the position of Bosch Professor of Surgery at the University of Sydney and undertakes his clinical work at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney.

**Professor Hugh Ringland Taylor**

Professor Hugh Ringland Taylor received a Companion in the general division, Order of Australia, for service to medicine in the field of ophthalmology, particularly through renowned work in the prevention of river blindness in the third world, to academia through research and education related to the prevention of eye disease, and to the development of policy on eye health in indigenous communities.

**AM (Member in the Order of Australia)**

**Dr Edward Henry Bates**

Dr Bates has been honoured by appointment as a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia for his work in the field of paediatric orthopaedics as a clinician, teacher and administrator.

Dr Bates has been a leader in Australian orthopaedics, and in 1983 became the first Sydney surgeon to restrict his practice exclusively to children's orthopaedic surgery. He held the position of chairman of the Orthopaedic Department at the then Prince of Wales Children's Hospital from 1987.

In 1989 he was appointed Associate Professor of Paediatric Orthopaedics by the University of New South Wales with a full-time conjoint appointment.

Dr Bates was a significant contributor to the establishment of both the AOA Training and Continuing Education Programmes and remained active in orthopaedic registrar training until his retirement.

Dr Bates is a past president of the Australian Orthopaedic Association and the Australian Paediatric Orthopaedic Society, and was head of surgery at the Sydney Children's Hospital during his years as a College councillor and chairman of the Court of Examiners.

Dr Bates continues to contribute to College activities and is currently a co-convener of the College's second national Sports Injury Conference to be held in Sydney in November 2001.

**Associate Professor Michael Besser**

Associate Professor Michael Besser received an Order of Australia honouring his contributions to neurosurgery as a clinician, teacher and administrator.

Associate Professor Besser has worked tirelessly for many years to uphold the standards of neurosurgery by undertaking a range of executive roles, including chairman of the Board of Neurosurgery, pres-
ident of the NSW Neurosurgical Association and president of the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia.

Associate Professor Besser is currently head of the Department of Neurosurgery at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and also works at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in Sydney. He is also the clinical director of neurosciences for the Central Sydney Area Health Service and examiner for the Royal Australian College of Surgeons.

Professor Don Esmore

Professor Esmore has been honoured with an Order of Australia medal for his service in the field of heart and lung transplants and research into artificial heart technology.

Professor Esmore continues his work at the Alfred Hospital as a cardiothoracic surgeon, having been a veteran of heart and lung transplantation for over 16 years. He has been involved in close to 900 transplants and with implanting more than 60 artificial hearts.

Professor Esmore spent four years at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney and 12 years as director of the National Transplant Programme at the Alfred Hospital.

Mr William Brian Fleming

Mr William Brian Fleming has received Membership of the Order of Australia for service to medicine, particularly oncology, as a head and neck surgeon and as a medical administrator.

At the Royal Melbourne Hospital he was chairman of the Division of Surgery and the Medical Advisory Committee and a member of the board of management.

Other executive positions have included president of the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia, president of the Australian Cancer Society and chairman of the executive committee of the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria. Mr Fleming has also received the Gold Medal (for distinguished service) of the Australian Cancer Society and the Inaugural Head and Neck Medal. He is currently working as a medical panelist for WorkCover.

Dr Frank Joseph Martin

Dr Frank Joseph Martin has been honoured with an Order of Australia for service to medicine, particularly in the field of ophthalmology, as a clinician teacher and administrator.

Dr Martin currently holds a string of positions, including: head of the department of ophthalmology at the Children's Hospital, Westmead; visiting medical officer at the Sydney Eye Hospital; and chairman of the medical staff council, Sydney Eye Hospitals. In addition he is the vice president of the Royal Blind Society of NSW, and president of the Children's Medical Research Institute. He is on the International Council of Ophthalmology and the Council of the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology.

OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia)

Mr Arthur Lavender Stephenson

Mr Arthur Lavender Stephenson, who died in February this year, received an Order of Australia Medal for service to medicine in the field of plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Professor Bryant Rigbye Stokes

Professor Bryant Rigbye Stokes has been honoured with the Order of Australia for both his contributions in the area of neurosurgery and in the development and improvement of health care standards in Australia.

Professor Stokes is clinical professor of neurosurgery and adjunct professor, Department of Anatomy and Human Biology, at the University of Western Australia. In March 1998 he was conferred a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

His career highlights include the position of chief medical officer, Clinical Directorate, Health Department of Western Australia, as well as member of the board for the newly established Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care. He is also a past president of the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia.

Professor Stokes is a respected neurosurgeon and currently holds the position of Chief Medical Officer and Acting Commissioner of Health, Health Department of Western Australia.
New librarian: Anne Casey

A new librarian, Anne Casey, has started at the Gordon Craig Library service. Anne has 15 years experience as a librarian, and has worked previously as a reference librarian in the Baillieu Library at the University of Melbourne and as manager of the Rowden White Library.

In the past four years Anne has worked on several major internet-related projects, including Multi-Media Victoria’s Community Leaders program. Anne explains, “The Community Leaders program is a State Government-funded project to help get community groups online and provide them with the support and training needed to progress the goals of their group and enjoy the benefits of having an online network.

“A big part of my new job as librarian is to develop and administer the College website so it becomes a very useful and rewarding medium for Fellows and trainees of the College, as well as providing basic information to members of the public who want to learn more about what the College does.”

“My own experience with the internet as a source of information and as a way of communicating with others has been very positive. The College web site should provide a dynamic way for surgeons and trainees to access the most up-to-date information on their specialties and to connect with others working in the same specialized fields. It will be my job as librarian to support your work by keeping everything on the website current, rewarding and easy to use.”

“I understand the library service has faltered somewhat in the last few months, as a first stage in the transition to providing a new electronic-based service. I will be working with an assistant, Andrea Mills, who is also a qualified librarian, to make the library service everything it should be to meet the needs of all our members, wherever they are located.”

“We will continue to provide any journal articles requested, as well as MEDLINE and other medical database searches and general reference services. In the coming months, we will pick up our journal subscriptions with online agencies. We will keep any historical journals not available as online subscriptions and also plan to keep a small number of print subscriptions for the new Reading Room. We are working on a plan for the books so that nothing valuable, in any sense of the word, is lost.”

The committed aim of the Gordon Craig Library service will continue to be as it has been, to assist RACS members to “keep abreast of advances in surgery, so that they will be able to give to their patients the best surgical service that is possible”.

If anyone would like to contact Anne to discuss the development of the college web site and library service, her email is anne.casey@surgeons.org and her phone number is (03) 9249 1272.

Library feedback

Thanks for the email with the abstracts. I received the articles yesterday. The College Library service to me and Andrew Hill over here in Kijabe is fantastic – many American surgeons who pass through Kijabe can’t believe us Fellows have access to this kind of service. We can’t access the Internet at Kijabe. The abstracts, though, I could open and read but not access on the Net.

Thanks again,
PETER BIRD, KIJABE, MAY 18 2001

Thank you for your prompt response to my request for the article on torticollis. It has been very helpful. Not being from Melbourne, I was not aware of the content and extent of The Gordon Craig Library or its Librarians. I’ve never experienced such a rapid response, so willingly given in such a friendly and courteous manner in a librarian before. I’ll remember to ask for your help for any of those difficult to find articles in the future.

Many thanks
LEANNA TESTON, JULY 4 2001

Surgical News

Correspondence to Surgical News should be sent to:
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RACS Surgical News
Will I go to the ASC next year?

With memories of the Canberra meeting fresh in our minds and miscellaneous expenses continuing to appear on our credit card statements, this question may appear far too premature to consider at this time of year. The reality however, is that unless conscious thought is given to next year’s College meeting now, it is quite likely to become an “also-ran” in the conference and holiday stakes.

By their nature, overseas conferences and holidays are planned six months or more in advance and naturally take priority over other meetings. Family holidays are often booked on an annual basis and it is therefore not surprising that the College ASC is only considered seriously a month or so before the meeting in May.

By that stage any number of reasons not to go spring to mind. These range from needing to “mind the fort” while the younger Fellows in the department or practice go, through to preferring to attend dedicated specialist meetings, which often have lower registration fees, and which minimise time away from home and practice by being held over weekends.

Will I go to the ASC next year? The answer is “Yes” of course, since I am convenor of next year’s meeting in Adelaide. (Unless, of course, my committee and I follow the lead of John Clarke in the ABC Olympic spoof “The Games” and fly out of town on the eve of the meeting!)

With the retirement of Kevin Wickham, management of the ASC will be completely College-based with full-time conference manager Ms. Lindy Moffat, scientific co-ordinator Mr. John Cocks and ASC secretary Ms. Laura Sinclair providing the day-to-day support for the local organising committee.

We are hoping to attract more than the usual 1500 Fellows, trainees and associates with the following draw-cards:

1. The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh: With over a thousand ex-pat Fellows in Australasia and South-East Asia, the Edinburgh College has asked to co-host the Adelaide meeting. They will supply keynote speakers, named lectures and co-chairmen and will advertise the meeting widely amongst their Fellows.

2. RACS 75th Anniversary: A number of activities are planned to celebrate this milestone, including a gala reception following the convocation in Adelaide where we will be addressed by our Patron, HRH Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales.

3. Compulsory computer projection: “To err is human, to really foul things up use a computer.” I have lost track of how often this has been brought to my attention since I first announced that Adelaide would not allow 35mm slide projection.

The decision, however, remains and has been strongly supported by our audio-visual consultants. A future article in Surgical News will cover guidelines for presentations and strategies for preventing “glitches”.

4. Conference structure and timing: The meeting will run for the usual 5 days but start on Saturday rather than Monday. The convocation will be held on Sunday evening and the conference dinner on Monday night, following a plenary session highlighting 75 years of surgical progress in Australasia, the President’s lecture and the AGM.

It is hoped that by reducing the length of the meeting by two working days, Fellows will join in the social program – which will feature the very best of South Australia’s food, wine and fashion.

5. Registration fees: A concerted effort is being made to substantially increase the level of sponsorship for the meeting, so as to lower the registration fee. In addition, the executive committee has taken the view that while the ASC should be self-funding, it should not be regarded as a fundraising exercise for either the College or the Foundation. Any profit generated should be credited to the following year’s meeting.

Registration fees will be set to reflect this philosophy. It is proposed that associates and retired fellows will be allowed complimentary registration.

6. Additional features: The business of surgery will be addressed in a series of breakfast sessions and an exhibition of art works by surgeons will be displayed in the industry exhibition area.

The question I am really asking is: “Will you go to the ASC next year?”

The most difficult aspect of convening the ASC to date has been the almost eerie lack of feedback. Our committee is excited by the features outlined above, but we are keen to know what others think. Please tell us what you love or hate about the ASC and whether you will or will not come to Adelaide next year.

Lindy Moffat and John Cocks can be contacted in Melbourne:
Phone (03) 9249 1224
Fax (03) 9249 1275
Email lindy.moffat@surgeons.org

The local organising committee can be reached via the SA State Committee Office:
Phone (08) 82391000
Fax (08) 8267 3069
Email glenben@bigpond.com

Vol.2 No.6 July 2001
Vinix supports cancer fight

The chief executive of RACS, Dr Vin Massaro, formally acknowledged the major contribution by Vinix Tubemakers at a meeting at the firm last month. Vinix Tubemakers is a generous private sponsor which has made possible scholarships like the Vinix Tubemakers - Raelene Boyle Scholarship.

“We think of Vinix as a big family – the organisation personally felt the pain of staff affected by cancer and wanted to contribute something very specific to supporting the cause,” Vinidex Chief Executive, Kevin Irwin, said. “For every dollar that staff are raising we match it with another dollar. We not only involve staff but involve customers and suppliers in our fundraising activities.”

The scholarship has already played a valuable role in research and the development of effective treatment and prevention programmes.

Dr Cuong Duong is the 2001 scholarship holder and is currently working at the Peter McCallum Cancer Institute in Melbourne. Dr Duong is undertaking a project to develop a reliable means to predict patient responses to chemotherapy in the treatment of oesophageal cancer.

Targeting drink-drivers

Irresponsible drivers who ignore road safety laws by repeatedly drink-driving could be forced to install alcohol ignition interlock devices under State Government proposals released last month at the RACS.

Transport Minister Peter Batchelor said the release of a discussion paper outlining the proposal for alcohol ignition interlock devices came after a horror long weekend on Victorian roads during which seven people died – the worst road toll for the Queen’s Birthday long weekend in 10 years.

“This level of carnage is totally unacceptable, as is the number of drivers apprehended with high blood alcohol content (BAC) over the same period,” Mr Batchelor said.

He said that although there had been significant reductions in the incidence of drink-driving in recent years, alcohol remained a major problem on the state’s roads.

The College of Surgeons was chosen to release the discussion paper because it has significantly helped successive state governments in the reduction of road deaths. The College was also a major player in the campaign for Victorians to wear seat belts.

“Each year there are about 80 fatal crashes in Victoria that involve a driver with a BAC over the legal limit,” Mr Batchelor said.

About 22 of these fatalities, plus an additional 220 serious injuries and 340 minor injuries, involve a driver with a previous conviction for drink-driving. The cost of these accidents to the community is about $80 million per year.

Repeat offenders who have previously been found guilty of drink-driving are an increasing problem, with 3239 repeat drink-drivers caught in 1998 – 970 more than in 1988.

These repeat offences are becoming all too common and new approaches are clearly needed.

Interlocks, which physically prevent a drunk driver from starting their car, are one possible solution to help deal with the hard core of motorists who continue to drive when drunk.
news in brief

More beds in NSW

The NSW Government has committed itself to reorganising the state’s intensive care services and to significantly increasing bed numbers, particularly in Sydney’s western suburbs. It is also planning changes in running emergency departments in a bid to improve services and address problems such as over-crowding and a lack of ward beds.

The changes were outlined in two reports released this month, prepared by committees of medical staff and health department officials. The report on intensive care units found that bed numbers across the state would have to rise by at least 70 during the next month to cope with increased demand.

Oesophageal surgery deaths reduced

A new type of surgery may reduce deaths during operations for cancer of the oesophagus. The operation will free critically ill patients from one of the most invasive operations in medicine.

Melbourne St Vincent’s Hospital throat and lung surgeon Gavin Wright, who adapted a method developed by a Belgian colleague, performed the operation for only the second time this week.

He said the keyhole operation meant most patients could avoid the intensive care ward and go home in about eight days rather than 12 under the old method.

New hope for breast cancer sufferers.

Radiation that zaps only cancerous tissue could hold fresh hope for breast cancer sufferers. Peter McCallum Cancer Institute researchers will soon begin a study of the miniature x-ray system, which sends radiation to the tumor site.

Because only a small dose of radiation is needed, the therapy can be used in the operating theatre straight after the tumor is removed.

The president of the Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group, Professor David Ball, said the technology could shorten a patient’s course of radiotherapy after surgery.

"The technology has significant potentialities for changing the way we treat certain types of cancers," Professor Ball said.

Royal commission

A top-level inquiry, likely to lead to a royal commission, has been launched into the removal of body parts in at least two Adelaide medical institutions, the Women’s and the Children’s hospitals.

Solicitor-General Brad Selway, QC, will investigate allegations that body parts - such as heart and brains - were removed during autopsies.

Practice Vacancy of the Month

GENERAL SURGEON
VISITING MEDICAL OFFICER
Goulburn Base Hospital

Goulburn Base Hospital is seeking a General Surgeon/Visiting Medical Officer to be involved in the VMO Surgeon’s roster (one in three). Support services involve Resident Medical Officer/Intern staff and full-time Career Medical Officer cover for the hospital after hours. The existing practice groups in Goulburn would be willing to consider the successful applicant joining or alternatively the applicant may wish to be a solo practitioner or a Staff Specialist to the hospital with the right of private practice.

The position has become vacant due to retirement earlier this year of a VMO surgeon. Locum applicants would be welcome pending a permanent appointment.

Applicants must be fully registered or registrable in NSW. FRACS or equivalent recognised qualification is essential as is membership of a medical defence organisation (or alternatively possession of professional indemnity insurance with a suitable level of cover). Surgeons who have a special interest in a sub-speciality or disease patterns in a rural community would be welcome.

Goulburn Base Hospital is an acute care facility with a 106 bed capacity servicing a population of about 66,000 of which 24,000 are in the city of Goulburn. It is a major medical facility in the Southern Area Health Service, which incorporates the South Coast of New South Wales, the Monaro District and the Southern Tablelands. Goulburn is about 21/2 hours by road from Sydney and the New South Wales snow fields, Canberra (1 hour) and the South Coast (13/4 hours) are within easy reach.

Further details are available from Dr Geoff Bayliss on (02) 48273267.

Vol.2 No.6 July 2001
ANNE ELLISON:  
online curriculum coordinator

I began working with the College in March this year. My qualifications and experience include:
- PhD in Political Science from the University of Melbourne;
- taught Public Policy, Politics of the Media and ran the State Parliamentary internship programs 1996-2000;
- Research Fellow with Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Monash University 2000-2001, working on a Women's Health National Collaborative Core Curriculum, which is now being piloted by four Australian universities;
- also provided consultation advice for Department of General Practice at Monash University and the RACGP on strengthening the links between research and practice in general practice.

The College is also preparing a series of case studies that build on STEM and link the basic sciences with clinical practice and College curriculum objectives. The case studies are collaborative efforts involving surgeons, sub-committees and other relevant experts.
- The case studies series is:
  - Skin/Subcutaneous
  - Tissue/Integument
  - Breast/Head and Neck/Endocrine
  - Cardiovascular/Respiratory
  - Gastrointestinal/Abdominal
  - Wall/Abdomen/Groin
  - Locomotor/Skeletal
  - Nervous System/Neuroscience
  - Neurosurgery
  - Gynaecology/Andrology/Urinary System

My role as curriculum coordinator is to work with the contributors to construct the case studies and then work with the IT team to prepare these for BST Online. This process involves:
- Discussion with a surgeon to create a profile of an actual case, identify key stages in the case, and key knowledge and skills required by a basic surgical trainee;
- Preparation of this information in an interactive learning format for BST Online;
- Discussions with the sub-committees to identify theoretical content and MCQs that would be relevant to the case.

We have already had significant interest from Fellows who would be interested in being authors of case studies. However there is plenty of scope for this project and we would welcome more Fellows. If you would like to be involved please contact: Anne Ellison
Phone: 03 9249 1267
Email: anne.ellison@surgeons.org
Mobile: 0413 220 151

About BST Online:
- In 2000 the College produced STEM resources for distance learning.
- In 2000 the College launched BST Online, a website for Basic Surgical Trainees.
- STEM is being placed on the website, in interactive and linear text format.

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<td>&quot;Death Sentence. A reflection on the ethical Aspects of palliative care.&quot; (Centre for Values, Ethics and Law in Medicine)</td>
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<td>Lecture: Associate Professor Paul Komesaroff</td>
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<td><strong>WHERE:</strong></td>
<td>Marjorie Oldfield Lecture Theatre - Edward Ford Building A27, University of Sydney</td>
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<td><strong>CONTACT:</strong></td>
<td>6pm, 27 July 2001</td>
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THE GARNETT PASSE AND RODNEY WILLIAMS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
AWARDS FOR 2002

SABBATICAL FELLOWSHIP

Applications are invited for a Sabbatical Fellowship in Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery to commence in 2002.

Applicants are expected to be well-established Australian or New Zealand Otolaryngologists who wish to undertake a period of specific training or study to advance their specialist knowledge or expertise, or to undertake a period of research.

The Fellowship will be for a minimum period of six months, but no more than twelve months, and the stipend offered will be $100,000 per annum pro-rated, depending on the duration of the Fellowship. The successful applicant may also be provided with a contribution towards his/her airfares together with living and family allowances.

Applications in writing are to be accompanied by a full curriculum vitae, a two-page outline of the proposed training/study or research, the names of three referees and a statement of acceptance from the Head of Department in the university or institute where the applicant intends to work.

Closing Date: 28 September 2001

PROJECT GRANTS

Applications are invited for Project Grants for research in Otorhinolaryngology or the related fields of biomedical science to commence in 2002.

Project Grants are for a period of up to three years, must be conducted in an Australian or New Zealand institution, and cannot be held by an awardee concurrently supported by the Foundation. Individuals with a previous history of support from the Foundation are particularly encouraged to apply.

The annual level of support will not exceed AUD90,000 and, within this cap, grants must include the salary of the applicant and/or research assistant, equipment, maintenance, and all other costs for an approved project. Usually commitments will not be made in which continued support over many years is implied.

Closing Date: 31 August 2001

GRANTS-IN-AID

Applications are invited for Grants-In-Aid for research in Otorhinolaryngology or the related fields of biomedical science to commence in 2002.

Grants-In-Aid are for a period of up to two years and must be conducted in an Australian or New Zealand institution. Otolaryngologists or Trainees in the Specialty who are in possession of the First Part of the F.R.A.C.S. are eligible to apply.

The annual level of support will not exceed AUD30,000 and grants are restricted to equipment and maintenance for an approved project. Usually commitments will not be made in which continued support over many years is implied.

Closing Date: 31 August 2001

Further details concerning the above awards together with the current appropriate application forms can be obtained from:

The Secretary
The Garnett Passe and Rodney Williams Memorial Foundation
Level 2
369 Royal Parade
PARKVILLE VICTORIA 3052
Telephone: 61-3-9349 2622
Facsimile: 61-3-9349 2615
Email: passefnd@ozemail.com.au
College Finances

Alternative sources of income - a plea for help!

College activities have expanded significantly over the past years, benefiting all areas of the Fellowship, including Trainees.

In order to fund these activities the College continues to identify and develop alternative sources of income wherever possible.

There is, however, one source of income available to the College that is controlled by the Fellowship. These are the funds owed to the College by Fellows who do not pay their subscriptions and other fees and charges when they fall due.

At 30 April 2001, Fellows owed the College $4,226,000. If this outstanding debt were invested in the College portfolio for a 12-month period it would generate an additional $367,000 based on the 2000 return of 8.68 percent.

How can you help?

As part of the annual subscription process, all Fellows would have received a subscription notice as well as a statement of account for any monies outstanding.

To help the College maximise its investment revenue, it is seeking payment of all outstanding accounts by Fellows as soon as possible.

What if I don't pay my outstanding subscriptions?

Firstly, the College does not benefit from increased investment revenue.

Secondly, a Fellow with an overdue account risks losing his or her Fellowship. Article 23 of the Articles of Association states: "Any Fellow who fails to pay the Annual Subscription payable by him under the provisions of Article 22 within three months of its due date may be required by Council to pay a surcharge or interest ... Any Fellow who fails to pay such Annual Subscription and any surcharge or interest or either of them within a further five months shall thereupon cease to be a Fellow and the Secretary shall so inform him in writing."

What do I do to help?

If you are a Fellow with an overdue account, please pay the College immediately and help it earn additional income. If you wish to verify any amounts outstanding, please contact Phillip Clutterbuck in the Finance Department (03 9249 1200).

Queen's Birthday Honours

From page 5

Mr Stephenson was a senior plastic surgeon at the Royal Hobart Hospital and a consultant for the Repatriation Hospital, Hobart, ultimately performing most of the plastic surgery in Hobart until a Plastic Unit was formed, of which he became principal until he retired in 1982.

Mr Stephenson was not only a surgeon but a captain in the AIF Medical Corp in the Second World War, serving in New Guinea and Tarakan. He was also heavily involved in College activities, including a period as chairman of the Tasmanian state committee.

Other Congratulations

Congratulations should also be extended to world-renowned neurosurgeon Professor Jeffrey Rosenfeld and to councillor and respected paediatric surgeon Associate Professor Patricia Davidson.

Professor Rosenfeld's pioneering operation on a nine-year-old English boy has drawn high praise from people including the Prime Minister, Mr John Howard, who said: "Patients once went to other countries for pioneering surgery - now they come to Melbourne ... we record our admiration for the wonderful skill of those wonderful Australian surgeons."

Associate Professor Patricia Davidson was nominated for the Telstra Business Women of the Year Award.
Risky management
I write re the article in the last RACS Surgical News on Risk Management p12-13.

Step four in the management of errors – Exacerbating the
Consequences of Errors – would appear to be amplification.

Why would the last step in the management of error require one to
worsen the consequences of error?

Ivan Lichter

A unique contribution
I wish to bring to your attention an
"incident" which occurred during the
ASC in Canberra. Quick thinking and
rural intervention by Dr Nick
Crampton has certainly saved the life
of a young male who had sustained
tension pneumothorax after an
asthma attack high on Mount
Kosciusko.

Dr Crampton was climbing Mount
Kosciusko late Wednesday, 9th May
2001, when he encountered the
young man, part of a school excursion,
in extremis. He rapidly decompressed
his chest and the patient was
retrieved to The Canberra Hospital
by the Snowy Scheme SouthCare
Helicopter. He was admitted under
the care of Dr John Tharion, FRACS
and was discharged without compli-
cation.

By coming to this young man's aid
and resuscitating according to EMST
principles he has made a unique
contribution to the Canberra ASC.

His contact details are:
Dr Nick Crampton Suit 5G
John Flynn Medical Centre
Tugun, Queensland 4224
Office phone number 07 5598 0855
Dr Damian McMahon
Canberra Hospital

International recognition
I thought I should let you know that
I am about to embark on a trip to
Canada and the UK with two high-
lights about which I feel you should
be aware.

I have been nominated and approved
for Honorary Fellowship of the Royal
College of Physicians and Surgeons
of Canada and will be presented for
fellowship on Thursday June 7th in
Jasper, Alberta.

The second relates to a most presti-
gious lecture which I am to
deliver to the British Association
of Plastic Surgeons which is simi-
lar to the Syme Oration.

This is the Gillies Memorial Lecture
in honour of the founding surgeon
of plastic surgery, Sir Harold Gillies.
The only other Australian to give
this lecture was Benny Rank. This
will be delivered in Stirling,
Scotland on the evening of
Wednesday 4 July.

You may or may not regard this as
newsworthy but I thought you
should be aware of the details.

G Ian Taylor

No consultation
Re: Closure of the Library

I deplore such an important move
without prior consultation with
Fellows. When statistics are quoted,
is there any survey to show how
many visited the library without bor-
rowing?

Fellows who have no teaching hospi-
tal attachment now have no ready
access to the library. The Spring
Street building now cannot be
regarded as a centre for learning. It
appears to be a place to house staff
to collect our subscription which
incidentally should be reduced.

Victor Mar

Locum Positions need to be filled!

The Rural Locum Service maintains a database of locum vacancies and
a register of surgeons who are available for either long or short-term
appointments in rural areas of Australia. The Service assists in placing
locums in rural areas, enabling surgeons to take a well-earned break,
or time off for CME leave.

The following locum positions are currently available:

Coffs Harbour, NSW - 31.07.01 - 31.12.01
Mackay, QLD - 06.08.01 - 26.08.01
Mackay, QLD - 21.09.01 - 01.10.01
Echuca, VIC 09.02.02 - 03.03.02

Please contact Kylie Mahoney on (03) 9249 1284 or
kylie.mahoney@surgeons.org if you wish to register as a locum, or you
are a rural Fellow with locum requirements.
Performance Management Programme

The Performance Management Programme (PMP) was introduced in April this year with staff from Australia and New Zealand receiving training throughout May. The PMP reinforces good human resource management practice and effective supervision where staff are working towards a common purpose to achieve the goals of the College. There has been a strong commitment made by management to implement this programme to benefit the College, and enhance productivity and commitment of staff.

All staff members were signing off their work and development plans with their supervisors during the end of May and early June. During this time work goals and performance targets will be set for the remainder of this year, and annually thereafter. Staff will be reviewed throughout the year on their performance, with an annual review of their performance in November each year. Staff involved in working closely with Fellows will often be dependent on your comments, approval or return of draft documents before they are able to complete tasks. You will also be asked by their supervisor to comment on their performance for their annual review. There is a strong commitment from management and staff towards the PMP and it is important for you to be aware of the programme to assist, where possible staff in completing their work on time in order to help the meet their targets.

Pacific Association of Paediatric Surgeons

Coe Medal Award 2000/2001

To commemorate Herbert Coe, a major pioneering figure in Paediatric Surgery in North America last century, the Pacific Association of Paediatric Surgeons established in 1985 an international award, the Herbert Coe Medal, for outstanding contributions to Paediatric Surgery.

The award is not made annually, but only when there is a candidate of sufficient merit.

Since its inception, there have been 11 recipients of this award and for 2000/01 it has been awarded to Justin Kelly. The two previous Australian recipients were Mr Nate Myers in 1989 and Mr Durham Smith in 1993.

Notable among Mr Kelly's many contributions has been his innovative technique for bladder extrophy repair, which is now gaining worldwide recognition.

UPCOMING COLLEGE WORKSHOP
INTRODUCTION TO LEADERSHIP MANAGEMENT & THE LAW

19, 20 & 21 October 2001
Marriott Resort
GOLD COAST QLD.

Following on from the success of the workshop held in the Blue Mountains earlier this year, Mayne Health has agreed to sponsor a second Introduction to Leadership Management and the Law Workshop.

Specialist presenters from around Australia will be brought together to provide practical advice on communication, leadership, teamwork, financial management, practice management and legal issues.

The workshop has been developed for Younger Fellows who currently hold, or who may be required to take on a position of clinical leadership. Participants are also provided with an insight into other possible areas of study including a Masters in Business Administration.

The retreat style workshop provides an opportunity to interact and get to know other Younger Fellows from around Australia and New Zealand as well as allowing plenty of time to enjoy the venue.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Mayne Health registration is only $500.00 (inc GST), this covers all workshop sessions, materials, accommodation and meals. Partners and families are most welcome for a small supplement.

To Register contact DEPARTMENT OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT on + 61 3 9249 1274 or Email: college.cpd@surgeons.org

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY maynehealth
Deaths of Fellows
The College Council notes with regret the deaths of the following Fellows:

Mr Robert Noel TINNING, FRACS 1925 (NSW)
Mr Horace John EIZENBERG, FRACS 1904 (NSW)
Mr Eric Alfred Edgeworth HEDBERG, FRACS 1912 (NSW)
Mr Stefan Jacek SOKOLOWSKI, FRACS 1919 (Vic)

Continuing College involvement

Many Fellows and their partners enjoy attending College functions and receiving news of College activities. Unfortunately, as often happens in most organisations, when a Fellow dies, his or her widow or widower often becomes excluded from College life. We're looking to encourage widows and widowers of our Fellows to continue their involvement with the College if they so wish.

We would like to write to families of deceased Fellows and invite them to let us know if they wish to be kept in touch, to be invited to College activities or receive some of our publications. If you know of anyone to whom this may be of interest, please contact Judy Pryor on 61-3-9276 7406 or email judy.pryor@surgeons.org

From the president
From page 2

TRAINEE NUMBERS

The number of entrants into basic surgical training will be limited to 180-200 next year, to address problems of progression from Basic to Advanced training and to reflect some of the difficulties with obtaining enough surgical instructors to man the necessary skills courses in basic training.

INSTRUCTORS

All fellows interested in becoming instructors in the basic skills in EMS or critical care courses should contact the College.
Please don't miss out, register now for the

**CENTENARY SURGICAL ONCOLOGY**

2001 MEETING • PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

Brisbane Queensland Australia • 13 - 17 August 2001

In association with General Surgeons Australia Annual Scientific Meeting

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<th><strong>International Speakers</strong></th>
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<td>Professor Roger Blamey</td>
<td>Breast</td>
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<td>Professor Leslie Blumgart</td>
<td>Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary</td>
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<td>Dr Murray Brennan</td>
<td>Upper GI</td>
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<td>Professor Markus Buchler</td>
<td>Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary</td>
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<td>Professor Ann Chambers</td>
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<td>Dr Martin Gleave</td>
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<td>Professor Bill Heald</td>
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<td>Dr Gregory Reece</td>
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<td>Dr Ian Lavery</td>
<td>Colo-Rectal</td>
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<td>Dr Harold Pillsbury</td>
<td>Plastic &amp; Reconstructive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Takeshi Sano</td>
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<td>Dr Franklin Sim</td>
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This is a superb and comprehensive program on cancer.

View the full provisional program on the website at


**Further Information**

Centenary Surgical Oncology Meeting 2001

c/- Intermedia Convention and Event Management

PO Box 1280 (11/97 Castlemaine Street) Milton QLD 4064 AUSTRALIA

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