Updates on the Tasmanian Regional Committee

The end of 2015 is in sight providing the Tasmanian Regional Committee with an opportunity to reflect on an outstanding year.

ANZCA President Dr Genevieve Goulding provided important insight into topical issues and gave committee members an opportunity to discuss matters face-to-face recently, when she attended the Tasmanian Regional Committee meeting on September 24. The president acknowledged that workforce issues in anaesthesia are an ongoing problem. A workforce survey of anaesthesia department directors has just been completed in New Zealand with some interesting, yet-to-be-published results.

Dr Goulding also emphasised that revalidation is closer to becoming a reality. A report released by the Medical Board of Australia is available on the ANZCA website (click here) with recommendations for the Australian context. ANZCA has been progressive in ensuring the ANZCA Continuing Professional Development Program aligns well with the board’s preferred option (option C). Overall, the College seems well positioned for the challenge.

Dr Goulding said, “ANZCA is planning to provide council members and education officers with training in the area of bullying, harassment and discrimination in light of recent adverse publicity received by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. The College is also looking at developing pathways for individuals and departments, which outlines roles of employers and the College”.

A high-level meeting between the Tasmanian Regional Committee, anaesthesia directors, including Clinical Associate Professor Marcus Skinner, and the Tasmanian Health Service was held on November 6. The Training More Specialist Doctors in Tasmania program was the main item on the agenda. The Training More Specialist Doctors in Tasmania program has been successfully used to fund support positions through the Tasmanian Anaesthesia Training Program; providing additional capacity to employ talented anaesthetists, rather than significantly increasing training positions – and supply – in anaesthesia.

A presentation was delivered highlighting the outstanding results produced by the Tasmanian Anaesthesia Training Program and the benefits of the financial support provided through the Specialist Training Program. Both the part one and part two training programs are generating results consistently above the respective national benchmarks (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The Tasmanian Regional Committee requested support for continuing the program beyond February 2017. The feedback was well received by representatives of the Tasmanian Health Service and led to a constructive discussion about key issues, including workforce planning.

The high quality of the Tasmanian anaesthesia continuing medical education meetings is attracting a significant number of interstate delegates. Importantly, these meetings provide Tasmanian anaesthetists with an opportunity to help fulfill their continuing professional development requirements locally. The Winter Workshop, which was held on the August 29, at Freycinet Lodge, was no exception. Dr Gregg Best and his organising committee produced a well-organised and stimulating program titled “The human face of anaesthesia”. The “Key to me” and ALS refresher workshops hosted by Dr Marion Andrews, Dr Sandy Zalstein and Dr Malcolm Anderson were well received. Dr Clare McArthur and her committee are working hard to organise next year’s state meeting and will provide an update on progress in this edition of the TRC Insider. I encourage you to attend; it’s not to be missed.

A bid to host a future ANZCA annual scientific meeting (ASM) has been submitted to the ANZCA ASM Committee for evaluation at their next meeting. The bid was based on the outcomes of a feasibility study conducted by the Tasmanian Regional Committee in conjunction with Events Tasmania, against established ANZCA ASM criteria. I thank Dr Peter Wright and Ms Janette Papps for their efforts. Overall, provided the necessary support is received from ANZCA, it seems feasible to host a successful ASM in Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Regional Committee facilitated the publication of two ANZCA Bulletin articles during 2015. The committee’s deputy chair and welfare officer, Dr Jenny Plummer, wrote a piece in the March edition titled “Welfare… just the realm of the touchy feely brigade?” Dr Daniel Jolley and Dr Clare McArthur co-wrote an article titled “Tasmania sets the pace” in the September edition. Both articles provided valuable insights into important auxiliary activities to anaesthesia delivery in Tasmania.

Next year will see some changes to the Tasmanian Regional Committee. By getting involved with the committee you can help shape the future of the safety and quality of anaesthesia practice in Tasmania.

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable festive season.

Dr Nico Terblanche
Chair, Tasmanian Regional Committee
**Trainee report**

The Tasmanian Regional Trainee Committee is made up of five members from across the state, representing our three training locations. The committee meets by teleconference on several occasions throughout the year and aims to identify and communicate local issues relating to education, training and other matters affecting trainees to the college.

2015 has been a busy year for trainees and an exciting time to be part of the committee. At a state level we have seen implementation of new learning tools, ongoing improvements to trainee education, and consolidation of programs that aim to protect trainee welfare. At a national level we have seen ongoing positive changes to the curriculum and TPS as well as considered efforts to seek feedback on issues affecting trainees.

Tasmania has been at the forefront of many changes to the content and delivery of the ANZCA curriculum this year. The Networks resource has been rolled out across the state providing a valuable tool for trainees. Networks allows teaching resources to be accessed electronically from a single source. It also includes “classrooms” for primary and final exam candidates to share ideas and notes. 2016 will see an expansion of Networks to incorporate more resources for the final exam and scholar role.

The Tasmanian Training Program continues to provide high-quality training and education. We now boast two Renton Prize winners and one merit certificate in the space of two years. In 2015 all three of our candidates passed the fellowship exam and four passed the primary exam. These results are something to be proud of and congratulations should go to the trainees as well as the numerous teachers and mentors around the state.

We look forward to the 2016 Trainee Day that will form part of the combined ASA and ANZCA annual state meeting. The outstanding program will be the envy of most consultants with sessions on the difficult airway, obstetric emergencies, hyperbaric medicine and organ donation. An update on advances in lung isolation and the management of one-lung ventilation from internationally renowned thoracic Anaesthetist, Professor Peter Slinger is sure to be a highlight.

As this year draws to a close I would like to thank the members of the 2015 committee. We are now seeking nominations for membership in 2016 and I would urge trainees to apply and take an active interest in issues affecting trainees.

**Dr Rob Easther**
Chair, Tasmanian Trainee Committee

---

**Registrations open for the Tasmanian combined ASM 2016**

Preparation is well underway for next year’s combined ANZCA and Australian Society of Anaesthetists Tasmanian Annual Scientific Meeting, to be held in Hobart in February 2016. Developed to showcase the unique role held by Tasmania in the medical, cultural and geographic landscape, the theme of the meeting—“Anaesthesia in the extreme”—provides the foundation for a broad and interesting scientific program. Topics from the routine to the extremes of physiology, pathology and anatomy, plus retrieval and hyperbaric medicine will be covered in the dynamic and stimulating program.

Professor Peter Slinger from Toronto General Hospital will be the keynote speaker. Professor Slinger will share his expertise on thoracic anaesthesia and perioperative management of patients with severe lung disease.
Other invited speakers include Associate Professor Reny Segal, a past chair of the ANZCA Airway Special Interest Group, discussing management of “extreme” airways; Associate Professor Larry McNicol, a blood management expert who will present on major haemorrhage; and Associate Professor David Scott, who will present on anaesthesia in the elderly.

Local featured speakers include the Director of Anaesthesia at Royal Hobart Hospital, Clinical Associate Professor Marcus Skinner, who will provide an overview of retrieval and Antarctic medicine, and Dr David Cooper, who will review hyperbaric medicine. Mr Ashutosh Hardikar will present on catastrophes in cardiac theatre and Dr Nathan Dwyer will offer an update on pulmonary hypertension in the anaesthetist patient.

Delegates will have access to these world-renowned speakers and will have an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the small group workshop environment.

Tasmania is known for its vast wilderness, extreme landscape and a growing art and cultural scene. The social program will showcase some of the best Hobart has to offer. The Friday evening cocktail reception will be held at the Waterside Pavilion on Constitution Dock, where the yachts berth after competing in the Sydney to Hobart race. The magnificent Hobart Town Hall, built in 1866, will provide the venue for the Saturday evening conference dinner.

Dr Clare McArthur
Convenor, 2016 Tasmanian combined ASM

The latest on the Training Accreditation Committee

The ANZCA Training Accreditation Committee (TAC) has existed for many years. It is responsible for the accreditation of all ANZCA training sites throughout Australia, New Zealand and some sites in Hong Kong and Singapore. A national body directly accountable to the ANZCA Council, it provides a cornerstone for the implementation and application of ANZCA’s training standards and curriculum, and a senior forum for review and remediation of training sites and issues as required.

In 2013, as part of the implementation of the new ANZCA curriculum, TAC underwent a significant review led by its then chair Dr Mark Reeves. The changes included a significant streamlining of the accreditation review process to make it a single day every five years for all sites, unless a shorter period for review has been recommended; narrowing TAC’s focus to purely reviewing and accrediting anaesthetic training and avoiding commentary on broader hospital and industrial issues unless they directly impact on training; overhaul of the accreditation documentation to an online data collection with pre-populated fields and a standardised structure to allow a timely and comprehensive review (and less illegible writing!); and, importantly, a strong focus on genuine national representation. TAC now has representatives from all regions, New Zealand, the Faculty of Pain Medicine and a community observer. The chair is Dr Vanessa Beavis, whose organised, approachable and friendly leadership resonates strongly with the ongoing work and development of the committee. Much credit for TAC’s new systems and membership must go to Mark and his tireless energy and vision.

The committee holds three face-to-face meetings a year at ANZCA House in Melbourne and informal and ad hoc meetings as required. Professional development is available for TAC members in assessment and interview techniques. The most important work of the TAC is hospital and departmental review for training-site accreditation. All sites receive a visit by two or three TAC representatives every five years or as required. This year has been particularly busy, with most hospitals in Victoria, NSW and NZ due for review. The projected workload for review is similarly busy for next year. There has been plenty of opportunity to apply the new TAC systems and processes, which have stood up well and facilitated accurate and appropriate accreditation review.

TAC is a valuable part of ANZCA’s role in ensuring high quality anaesthetic training throughout the College’s jurisdiction. It is essential to ongoing quality and safety, patient care and clinician and trainee satisfaction. It also allows national collaboration and co-operation.

The biggest challenge faced by TAC is accessing enough accreditation visitors. Review teams are well balanced and led by a senior clinician experienced in accreditation and at least one member of TAC. If anyone (you are all welcome!) wishes to contribute, please contact Janette or myself. We would be delighted to hear from you. If you are approached and have your arm twisted, please smile politely and say you would be happy to assist the ongoing and valuable work of TAC.

Dr Lia Freestone
Tasmanian Accreditation Officer
ANZCA Training Accreditation Committee