

# Maintaining the business records of the College in a digital world

ANZCA holds a substantial collection of records created since its foundation in 1992 and a rich collection of historical records accumulated by its forebear, the Faculty of Anaesthetists, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, established in 1952.

For many years a professional archivist has managed ANZCA's business records and the historical records of the College. The recent review of the College archives has identified potential improvements, including the development of a new archival strategy, the separation of the ANZCA business and historical archive functions, and the updating of policies and procedures. As the College produces more information and records, particularly electronically through systems such as the training portfolio system and continuing professional development portfolio system, more attention is being given to the business records and archives.

Part-time College Archivist Fraser Faithfull is now focusing on the business records of the College and working with Monica Cronin, the Curator of the Geoffrey Kaye Museum of Anaesthetic History, to hand over responsibility for historical records. ANZCA's Honorary Archivist, Dr John Paull, and Dr Christine Ball, the Honorary Curator of the Geoffrey Kaye Museum of Anaesthetic History, also provide valuable assistance. The ongoing contribution of the members of the ANZCA History and Heritage Expert Reference Panel is gratefully acknowledged.

The review's recommendations were reinforced when Fraser attended the Australian Society of Archivists conference in Christchurch, NZ, which included presentations from organisations in a similar position. Today many organisations keep corporate records in electronic form and archivists work more to facilitate management of electronic records by the staff and business units that create and continue to access them.



The "digital archive" of the near future is likely to be a system for managing electronic records over time within an enterprise, rather than a physical entity in its own right. ANZCA is adjusting to these changes by engaging consultants to review the College archives, maintaining awareness of initiatives taken by other medical colleges, and keeping up with best practice in the archival sector.

The ANZCA Archives service is operating almost as usual while we implement changes:

- Several hundred boxes of archival records were sent to secure offsite storage this year. The space freed in the archive storeroom at ANZCA House has been used by the ANZCA Library, which in turn provided extra space for the new heritage centre in Ulimarua. Staff in the Records Management unit can obtain Fellow records directly from the offsite facility while trainee records are updated and maintained onsite.
- The ANZCA Archive is now focused on managing the business records of the College while the management of the historical collection is moving to the Geoffrey Kaye museum. Examples of historical records include photographs held by the College of past events and people, biographical information relating to deceased Fellows, old College and Faculty documents and letters, and anaesthetic records created by significant people. Questions about historic records can be directed to Monica Cronin, Curator of the Geoffrey Kaye Museum of Anaesthetic History, at [museum@anzca.edu.au](mailto:museum@anzca.edu.au).

Examples of ANZCA business records include ANZCA Council and committee deliberations, information about past College initiatives, and information about College prizes and awards. Contact ANZCA Archivist Fraser Faithfull, at [archivist@anzca.edu.au](mailto:archivist@anzca.edu.au).

- During late 2014 contractors assisted in developing a new business records-focused strategy and update our policies and procedures relating to the management of business records and historical records. Our focus is on creating practical business solutions, which respond to the ways ANZCA staff create, store and search for their electronic documents.

**Fraser Faithfull,**  
ANZCA Archives

# Ultrasound training in Papua New Guinea



## PNG training a study in enthusiasm and flexibility

On August 25 we started our long anticipated journey to attend the 29th annual meeting of the PNG Anaesthetic Society held in the highland city Goroka.

Joining me on the flight were PNG veteran and difficult airway specialist Dr Chris Acott, recognised researcher and anaesthetist Professor Andre van Zundert, his wife Vera Meussen, and Storz representative Jayne Thompson, who has visited PNG numerous times and has supported multiple airway workshops in her effort to help out the local medical community.

Also on board was roughly 100 kilograms of excess luggage, mostly thanks to Sonosite, which generously provided three M-Turbo Ultrasound machines and Blue Phantoms for workshops, but also because of the countless medical supplies contributed by donors.

To understand the significance and importance of our support for the local anaesthetic society I would like to draw your attention to the following facts: In a country with a population of 8.1 million only 22 (!) are trained anaesthetic specialists while a further eight (!) are employed as registrars. This alone might shock any anaesthetist in the western world, however it gets even more challenging for this brave group of 30.



"More information about the ANZCA Overseas Trainee Scholarship and past recipients is available from [www.anzca.edu.au/fellows/community-development/overseas-aid.html](http://www.anzca.edu.au/fellows/community-development/overseas-aid.html)"

According to PNG Health Minister Michael Malabag, quoted in an issue of Island Business in October 2013, "Papua New Guinea has the highest incidence of mouth cancer in the world." (25 per cent of all cancers in PNG are oral cancers). But the world does not end here for anaesthetists in PNG. Questions such as: "How would you anaesthetise a patient with a spear sticking out of his chest vibrating in a sinus rhythm?" might sound like something from a Monty Python movie but reflects the day-to-day life in PNG, where fights to death between rival tribes – there are more than 500 tribes speaking an astonishing 800 identified languages – are a regular occurrence. (Ask Pauline Wake for the video should you ever meet her).

After living in PNG in the 1970s, Dr Acott has revisited many times to work with the PNG Anaesthetic Society in their efforts to become experts in anaesthesia and, in particular, airway management. Considering the high number of oral and throat cancers, often caused by excessive chewing of betel nut, now banned in Port Moresby, this is key to helping as many people as possible.

I joined Dr Acott in 2013 to hold presentations and workshops on difficult airway management. I quickly learnt the anaesthetists in PNG are not only very

"Their flexibility was evident when the chickens used to practise needle technique... later wound up in a massive cauldron to be served for dinner."



dedicated and creative in their approach, but also driven to progress. It was easy for me to commit to organise and lead the first ultrasound-guided workshops on PNG soil.

Working with the team was great fun. I can hardly imagine a better audience than one that is as enthusiastic, driven to learn, inquisitive and, by the nature of their daily lives, all for hands-on experiences. Their flexibility was evident when the chickens used to practise needle technique and during the first round of workshops using ultrasound machines later wound up in a massive cauldron to be served for dinner.

Of course, as it goes in PNG, many other topics were discussed and we are already in the planning phase for 2015.

I warmly thank everyone who has supported our journey, especially to the ANZCA Overseas Aid Committee, which supported my trip through the ANZCA Overseas Aid Trainee Scholarship.

**Yasmin Endlich**  
Overseas Aid Committee 2014 Trainee Scholar

*Clockwise from top left: Dr Harry Aigeeleng, Dr Nora Dai practicing ultrasound on a volunteer at Goroka Hospital with Dr Yasmin Endlich; Daisy Sibun, Anaesthesia Scientific Officer, practicing intubation at Goroka Hospital; Chicken cooking on open fire; Dr Chris Acott, airway lecture for Anaesthetic Scientific Officers at Goroka Hospital.*