NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons is to be held in Auckland 2, Level 4, SkyCity Grand Hotel, 88 Federal Street, Auckland, New Zealand, on Thursday 9 May 2013 at 5.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 9 May 2012 (a copy of the minutes is attached).
2. To receive a report from the President on behalf of the Council.
4. To appoint Ernst & Young as auditors for 2013 – Partner Mr Paul Gower.
5. To receive the result of the election for Elected Members of the Council. To be tabled.

By Order of Council

DATED this 10th day of April 2013

Dr David Hillis
Chief Executive Officer

PROXIES (Proxy Form Attached)

1. A Fellow who is entitled to attend and vote at the AGM may appoint a proxy to attend and vote at the AGM in his/her place.
2. A proxy so appointed must be a Fellow of the College.
3. A person appointed as a proxy may only vote on the taking of a poll at the meeting to which the proxy relates.
4. An instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing under the hand of the appointer and shall not be deemed as valid unless the instrument used to appoint the proxy is deposited at the Melbourne office not less than 48 hours before the scheduled time for the meeting (ie by 5.30 pm AEST Tuesday 7 May 2013)
ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

PROXY FORM*

For the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons to be held in Auckland 2, Level 4, SkyCity Grand Hotel, 88 Federal Street, Auckland, New Zealand, on Thursday 9 May 2013 at 5.30 pm..

I ..................................................... of ..........................................................
(Name – please print clearly) (Address)

being a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons do hereby appoint

........................................................ of ..........................................................
(Name of Proxy – please print clearly) (Address of Proxy)

as being a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, to attend and vote at the above meeting in my place.

DATED this ........................................ day of ........................................ 2013

Signature ..........................................................

Should you wish to direct your Proxy how to vote, please insert an “X” in the appropriate box below, otherwise your proxy may vote as he/she thinks fit.

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ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Minutes Recording
The Proceedings
Of the
Annual General Meeting
Of Fellows

HELD IN
Plenary Hall, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur City Centre, 50088
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on

ON
Wednesday 9 May 2012 at 5.30 pm
Present

Mr Ian Civil – President, Chair
76 Fellows

Apologies

Matthew Threadgate  Myles Coolican  Anthony Wilson
Anne Brooks  Peter Woodruff  Gordon Low
Richard Grills  Ian McInnes  Gregory Self
David Nott  Robert Black  David Chapman
Peter Burke  Graeme Clarke  David Colledge
John Royle  Bernard Catchpole  Arend Merrie
Sydney Nade  Patrick Cotter  Rob Atkinson
Anthony Keirath  Charles Roe  David Sonnabend
Robert Oakshott  James Guest  John Hart
Myles Coolican  Brian Purssey  William Lennon
Indunil Gunawardena  A/Prof Robert Pearce  Peter Walker
Peter Giblin  John Tuffley  David Watters
Peter Field  William Gilkison

Welcome

The President welcomed those present to the Annual General Meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the AGM held on 5 May 2011

On the motion of Mr Mark Edwards, seconded by Dr Cathy Ferguson:

It was RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Fellows of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons held in the Hall E, Adelaide Convention Centre on Thursday 5 May 2011 at 5.30 pm, which had been circulated to Fellows, be taken as read and confirmed.

2. Report from the President

The President highlighted the following:

Relationship between the College and the Specialist Societies

Triggered by an AOA proposal to investigate running an orthopaedic training program separate from the College, all 13 Specialty Societies have engaged in a review of College governance and educational relationships. The intensity of these activities has diverted College resources from other important external activities but there have been some positives. The President attending all the Specialty Society scientific meetings has resulted in a much closer relationship between the members and governing bodies of the specialties and the College.

Two working parties chaired by Garry Wilson, External Community Advisor on College were set up comprising Presidents, key office bearers and staff of both the College and the Specialty Societies to first determine what the issues of concern are and then to propose some solutions regarding governance and educational relationships. These are making steady progress. In addition, a Steering Group composed of all the Presidents of the Specialty Societies and the President and Vice-President of the College was formed to oversee the working parties and offer advice to College Council on their progress and direction with final reports due to the June 2012 Council meeting.

Fellows might recall that the AOA determined that they would not proceed with their plan for separate AMC accreditation for the training of orthopaedic surgeons late last
year following the initial meeting of the Steering Group and a polling of their members which did not support such an action. This direction however, was dependant on progress being made on College governance and education, by their assessment, at the June 2012 AOA Board meeting, directly after our June Council.

Indication from the President of the AOA is that at this point he feels progress is being made and his intention is to report to the AOA Board that it remains engaged in the process. Under the terms of the educational MOUs the College has with the Specialty Societies, either side must give 12 months’ notice if they wish to terminate the relationship. The AOA provided such advice last October, so if they do not feel the proposals match their expectations, they will be in a position to withdraw providing support to the College’s orthopaedic training program. That would clearly place the College and its trainees at some risk as the AOA has not proceeded down the path of AMC accreditation for the training of orthopaedic surgeons.

The College’s position on these matters is quite clear. Training programs other than those run by the College will not lead to the awarding of FRACS, and the College will continue to provide training programs in all nine specialties, as it is accredited to do, even if one or more of its partnering societies withdraw from the mutual arrangement currently in place.

**Awarding Fellowship in a defined scope of practice**

One of the more contentious decisions made by Council during the course of the year was to award Fellowship in a defined scope of practice to a doctor who had been unsuccessful in obtaining Fellowship in the full scope of the specialty by examination. The fact that RACS trains in nine specialties which are different to the scopes of practice in which surgeons train in other parts of the world inevitably means that the College comes under some pressure when advising the Medical Board of Australia about the suitability for registration for doctors whose training and practice only cover part of one of our scopes (as for example Paediatric Cardiac Surgery), part of two scopes (such as Trauma Surgery) or part of many scopes (such as Transplant Surgery). The College spent significant time discussing these issues during the course of the year and finally approved a policy in which the key sentence is “However, due to a sustained record of excellence as a specialist surgeon in an area of practice that is deemed beneficial to the Australian health consumer they may be recognised as being comparable to an ANZ trained surgeon with a defined scope of practice”. Such recognition would not in itself mean that the International Medical Graduate was eligible for Fellowship. The situation where our appeals policy effectively forced Council to award Fellowship on the basis of an appeal has also been revised so that the result of any appeal cannot directly lead to that outcome.

**College Properties**

The College is very proud of its heritage buildings but in many respects they are not fit for purpose for a contemporary membership based educational organisation. While the College headquarters in Melbourne have been upgraded sufficiently over the years to meet current demands others are unable to meet requirements either because of age, or general state of repair. Two State offices have moved in the past 12 months. In Queensland, the existing building is no longer safe or functional. Planning issues restricted the options for rebuilding and threatened ongoing litigation. A decision was made to lease accommodation. In NSW a lovely heritage building became costly to manage and parking availability became an increasing limitation. That building has been sold and accommodation leased closer to better parking and public transport. These experiences and the advice of our honorary advisors is that the College should retain flexibility to secure future accommodation according to evolving needs.

**Vale Rowan Nicks**

During the course of the year the College lost one of its greatest ambassadors for international relations, Rowan Nicks. Rowan’s generosity as a benefactor will enable continued contributions to the Pacific Islands, PNG, Thailand and Myanmar. His greatest legacy may be his outstanding example to others.
Relationship with Colleges of Physicians
Over the past two years there has been development of strong collegial relations with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Canada. These relationships have focussed on educational activities and will continue with regular joint meetings and workshops to benefit our Fellows and Trainees.

Councillors’, Fellows and Staff Contributions
The President thanked the Councillors who retired from Council in 2011 and 2012, noting recent initiatives – the Code of Conduct, the Competence and Performance Booklet, Audits of Surgical Mortality, ASERNIPs, Positions on Digital Imaging, constitutional change, the introduction of the Surgical Safety Checklist, the progression of the College’s relationship with Specialty Societies, improving the assessment of International Medical Graduates – were made possible by their hard work.

The President also thanked all Councillors, Expert Community Advisors, Fellows, the Chief Executive Officer and staff who have contributed to all the activities of the College.

On the motion of Mr Ian Civil, seconded by A/Professor Michael Hollands:

The meeting RECEIVED the report from the President.

3. Report from the Treasurer

The Treasurer A/Prof Mike Hollands gave a presentation on the previously circulated 2011 Financial Report which is also available on the College website.

The meeting noted that while revenue had decreased largely due to a drop in investment income and expenditure had increased slightly, the College was in a sound financial position and the auditors had given the 2011 accounts an unqualified audit opinion.

A/Prof Hollands thanked the financial advisers and staff for their input over the past year and extended best wishes to his successor A/Prof Marianne Vonau.

On the motion of A/Prof Mike Hollands, seconded by Dr Cathy Ferguson:

The meeting RECEIVED the financial report for 2011 from the Treasurer.

4. Reappointment of the auditors Ernst & Young for 2012

On the motion of A/Prof Mike Hollands, seconded by A/Prof Marianne Vonau:

The meeting REAPPOINTED Ernst & Young as College Auditors for 2012.

5. Results of the election for Elected Members of Council 2012

The meeting noted there had been a large number of candidates for Fellowship Elected Councillor positions and an increase in the number of votes, reflecting a robust involvement of Fellows in the governance of the College. Congratulations were extended to the following Councillors who were declared elected:

FELLOWSHIP ELECTED COUNCILLORS

Re-elected to Council
HOLLANDS, Michael John

Newly elected to Council
CARSON, Phillip James
MALISANO, Lawrence Pietro
SPECIALTY ELECTED COUNCILLORS

Newly elected to Council

General Surgery
SAUNDER, Alan Charles

Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery
VALLANCE, Neil Anthony

Cardiothoracic Surgery
MUNDY Julie Ann, QLD

Paediatric Surgery
SPARNON Anthony Lloyd, SA

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
THEILE David Robert, QLD

6. Changeover of Office Holders

The President congratulated and extended best wishes to the following Office Holders who were elected at the February 2012 Council meeting. The new Office Holders formally took office at the conclusion of the meeting.

President A/Prof Mike Hollands
Vice President Prof Michael Grigg
Censor in Chief Mr Simon Williams
Treasurer A/Prof Marianne Vonau
Chair, Professional Development & Standards Board Prof David Watters
Chair, Court of Examiners Prof Spencer Beasley
Chair, Skills Education Committee Mr Richard Perry
Chair, Board of Surgical Education & Training Mr Phil Truskett
Chair, Professional Standards Mr Graeme Campbell
Chair, Professional Development TBA
Chair, Fellowship Services Dr Catherine Ferguson
Chair, Research Audit and Academic Surgery Prof Julian Smith
Chair, External Affairs Mr John Batten

The meeting closed at 6.15 pm.