



Gasbag

**The e-newsletter from the New Zealand National Committee
of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists**

Volume 10

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July 2011

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NZNC CHAIR

The New Zealand National Committee Chair baton passed from Dr Vanessa Beavis to Dr Geoff Long at the July meeting so this issue includes an introductory comment from Geoff and a farewell note from Vanessa.

DR GEOFF LONG comments

This is a challenging time to be taking on the role of NZNC Chair – with the health workforce generally being charged with finding ways to do more with less, and the various ramifications of that approach. However, I have some dedicated colleagues on our national committee to assist me as we implement a number of strategies to meet those challenges and promote the value of maintaining the very high standard of anaesthesia practice that we have worked hard to develop over the years. I am delighted that the immediate past chair remains a committee member as Vanessa has done a terrific job and her experience will be invaluable.



It is not always easy to represent one's colleagues – to know what their views might be in any given situation. However, the recent round of roadshow visits that Vanessa Beavis undertook (great work, Vanessa, and a huge commitment) has given us a firm foundation and I hope to talk to many of you at the [New Zealand Anaesthesia Annual Scientific Meeting](#) being held in Auckland 2-5 November.

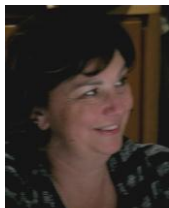
I really enjoy our ASMs. While the overseas conferences are great, their big programmes can mean you are spoiled for choice with a dozen or more concurrent lectures, workshops, discussion groups, etc. Inevitably you go to those around your current practice or sub-speciality interest.

The more intimate nature of our local meeting provides an opportunity to go to whatever is on offer, and I find the exposure to other areas of practice stimulating and a good way to keep in touch with current trends across a broad range within our speciality. It is good to hear some of our local speakers in addition to the visiting experts – there's a wealth of talent out there.

I enjoy the flyers coming out for the meeting – the [wee lass](#) with the arm in plaster suggesting her prescription for analgesics should include a transdermal opioid and a GABA analogue throws out an interesting challenge to traditional practice. The workshops on local blocks will be of value to all of us and the introduction to CPX exercise testing will expose us to a useful tool for pre-op assessment, adding a bit of science to the question "can you walk up a flight of stairs?". [Registration](#) for the ASM is open and I look forward to catching up with many of you there.

[Dr Geoff Long](#)

DR VANESSA BEAVIS comments



It's been an absolute privilege to serve as the NZNC Chair for three years. I have met some really delightful colleagues, especially at the roadshow meetings, and I have worked with excellent Fellows on our committee. I am glad to be handing over to such a capable person as Geoff, who will bring great knowledge and wisdom to the role. My thanks to our General Manager, Heather Ann Moodie, and all in the New Zealand office for fantastic support. Thanks also to my department at Auckland City Hospital. My colleagues there have been unbelievably patient and helpful with requests for time out to attend to the many demands of leading ANZCA in New Zealand. And to all in our anaesthesia community, kia kaha.

Vanessa Beavis

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1. NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL COMMITTEE (NZNC)

1.1 Cocktail party

The NZNC was delighted to host a cocktail party for key stakeholders on the eve of its July meeting and to welcome, among others, the Minister of Health, the Hon Tony Ryall, and the new Director-General of Health, Dr Kevin Woods. The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Health Select Committee, Dr Paul Hutchison and Grant Robertson respectively, also attended, as did representatives from the Medical Council, Pharmac, other medical colleges, the NZ Society of Anaesthetists, other medical bodies and the Ministry of Health. The event provided the opportunity to introduce the new NZNC Chair, Dr Geoff Long, and ANZCA's Vice President, Dr Lindy Roberts, who had flown from Perth to attend. *Pictured are (top photo): Dr Kevin Woods with Dr Lindy Roberts; and (bottom photo) Dr Vanessa Beavis, Hon Tony Ryall and Dr Geoff Long.*



1.2 July meeting

The NZNC met on Friday 8 July and Saturday 9 July. As well as electing new officers for the 2011-12 year, the meeting adopted a strategy for advocating its position on workforce issues, decided to develop a position paper on the anaesthesia workforce review and will make a submission on Health Workforce New Zealand's (HWNZ) proposed trainee funding criteria. The committee was pleased to welcome ANZCA Vice President Dr Lindy Roberts (*pictured here, with NZ General Manager Heather Ann Moodie, speaking to the meeting*).



1.3 New officers

While no external elections for committee membership were required this year, internal elections were held for the office-bearing positions. The NZNC office bearers for the 2011-12 year are:

Chair	Dr Geoff Long (Waikato)
Deputy Chair	Dr Nigel Robertson (Auckland City)
Honorary Secretary/Treasurer	Dr Gary Hopgood (Waikato)
National Education Officer	Dr Indu Kapoor (Wellington)
Formal Project Officer	Dr Jennifer Woods (Christchurch)
National Quality & Safety Officer	Dr Joe Sherriff (Southland)

Dr Geoff Long takes on the role of Chair, after a year as Deputy Chair of the NZNC and two years as National Education Officer. He has been a member of the NZNC since 2006 and served as the Assistant Formal Project Officer from 2006-2009. Dr Long, a graduate of the University of Auckland Medical School, is an anaesthetic consultant at Waikato Hospital, where, in addition to clinical work, he is Head of the Professional Division, Anaesthesia, Emergency Department and Intensive Care Unit. Now a generalist anaesthetist, he was previously involved in cardiac anaesthesia, setting up the cardiac surgical unit at Waikato Hospital in 1989, and introducing and teaching transoesophageal echocardiography at Waikato 10 years later. See the NZNC website for further information about [Dr Long](#).

1.4 New member

Dr Amber Chisholm (Auckland City) has stepped down from the NZNC due to family commitments. Dr Sally Ure (Wellington) has been co-opted to take her place for the 2011-12 year. Otherwise, [the committee](#) remains the same.

1.5 Joint meeting with NZSA

The annual joint meeting between the NZNC and the Executive of the NZ Society of Anaesthetists was held on the morning of Friday 8 July. The two groups noted that they were largely in agreement on the future direction of the anaesthesia workforce as expressed in the [workforce review report](#) to HWNZ, *Anaesthesia 2020*. Similarly, both supported the registration process and scope of practice proposals for anaesthetic technicians and agreed on a joint approach to HWNZ about its [proposed funding criteria](#). A memorandum of understanding between the NZNC and NZSA for running the Part 3 course for advanced trainees was signed off and the two groups will work on how to upgrade the NZ Anaesthesia Education Committee website. *Pictured: NZSA President Dr Rob Carpenter presenting Dr Vanessa Beavis with a gift to mark the end of her term as NZNC Chair.*



1.6 Future meetings

The NZNC will next meet in person on Friday 25 November. In 2012, it will meet on Friday 9 March, Friday-Saturday 22-23 June and Friday 9 November.

1.7 Annual report – financial statements

The [financial statements](#) of the NZNC annual report are now available on the Companies Office website. See the NZNC website for the rest of the [annual report](#).

1.8 Obituary

The NZNC notes with regret the death of Christchurch anaesthetist, Dr David Cranleigh Thomson Bush who died on 5 July aged 84. An obituary will be prepared for the *ANZCA Bulletin*.

2. NEW ZEALAND OFFICE

2.1 Farewell

Long-serving New Zealand national office staff member, Jan Brown, has resigned effective 29 July. Jan has been with the New Zealand office for about 13 years, serving firstly under Lorna Berwick and, more recently, Heather Ann Moodie. In recent years, she has taken primary responsibility for organising the NZNC meetings, agendas and minutes, and has been the administrator for the IMG processes, organising interviews and workplace-based assessments, both for ANZCA Fellowship purposes and to meet the vocational registration requirements of the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ). At its July meeting, the NZNC expressed its gratitude to Jan for the many years of valuable service that she has given ANZCA. *Pictured here, Dr Vaughan Laurensen, Chair of the NZ Panel for Vocational Registration, thanks Jan for her contribution, as did other NZNC members at the July meeting.* Existing staff member [Anna Pears](#) (*back to camera*) will succeed Jan in the NZNC role while [Rose Chadwick](#) will be employed by ANZCA to cover the IMG aspect of Jan's work until a permanent appointment is made.



2.2 Policy officer

The new position of policy officer in ANZCA's New Zealand office has been filled, with Wellington policy analyst Brigid Borlase due to take up the position on 3 August.

3. ANZCA MELBOURNE

3.1 ANZCA Bulletin

The Editor of the *ANZCA Bulletin* is keen to feature stories about New Zealand Fellows – their research, interesting cases in which they have been involved, voluntary work overseas, etc. Please advise the Communications Manager, NZ, [Susan Ewart](#), if you have any suggestions for such topics.

3.2 CEO leaves

Dr Mike Richards (*pictured*) had his last day as ANZCA CEO on 15 July. The process of appointing a successor continues, with interviews due to be held this month. In the meantime, the Deputy CEO, Carolyn Handley, is acting CEO, with the Executive General Manager Corporate Resources, Jess McKay, and the General Manager Policy, John Biviano, providing back up in her absence.



3.3 CPD Committee

NZNC member Dr Kerry Gunn (*pictured*) has been elected to the ANZCA CPD Committee.



3.4 Mortality Working Group

The Mortality Working Group has been made a permanent subcommittee reporting to ANZCA's Quality & Safety Committee.

3.5 e-Learning Working Group

With the disbandment of the Distance Education and Clinical Teaching Development Working Groups, the ANZCA Council has supported the formation of an e-Learning Working Group for the period May 2011 to April 2013. The group looks at e-learning resources (exam preparation courses, webinars and online discussion forums). There are two NZ Trainee Committee members on the group – Dr Sheila Barnett (Dunedin) and Dr Katherine Wills (Invercargill).

3.6 Supervisor of Training Working Group

The ANZCA Council has approved the establishment of a working group to develop a process for the selection, induction, training, support and tenure of supervisors of training, reporting to the Education & Training Committee. The group is seen as particularly important in view of the [Curriculum Redesign Project](#) and the increased workload and complexity of the supervisory role.

3.7 Professional documents

At its June meeting, the ANZCA Council approved two professional documents, which are now available, with relevant background papers, on the website:

- [PS53 Statement on the Handover Responsibilities of the Anaesthetist](#) (which means that *PS10 Guidelines on the Handover Responsibility During an Anaesthetic* and *PS20 Recommendations on Responsibilities of the Anaesthetist in the Post-Anaesthesia Period* have been withdrawn).
- [TE22 Policy on Simulation Centres Offering the Effective Management for Anaesthetic Crises.](#)

4. NEW FELLOWS

4.1 Admission to Fellowship

Congratulations and welcome to the following New Zealand-based anaesthetists who have been admitted to Fellowship and who have not been previously noted in *Gasbag* this year:

Sarah **Blair** (Wellington)
Teresa Frances **Bulger** (Palmerston North)
David James **Burton** (North Shore)
Estibaliz Arantzazu **Blazquez Basarrate** (Wellington)
Tarragon Macleod **Chisholm** (Dunedin)
Paul Norman **Currant** (Christchurch)
James Du Preez **Drew** (Auckland City)
Jeremy Ranil **Fernando** (Wellington)
Timothy Holmes **Hall** (Middlemore)
Hasher **Pallathu Kadavil** (Wellington)
Sarah Megan **Kennedy** (Middlemore)
Graham Dallas **Knottenbelt** (Starship)
Shane Irwin **Mcquoid** (Middlemore)

Nicola **Moore** (Wellington)
Erandhi Nirupama **Samaraweera** (Auckland City)
Jeanette Mary **Scott** (Middlemore)
Dean Patrick **Walsh** (Wellington)

5. CONSULTATION

The NZNC has been consulted on the following matters in the last two months:

5.1 [Medical Council of New Zealand \(MCNZ\)](#)

- A review of the fees paid to branch advisory bodies for their work in assessing international medical graduates for vocational registration.
- A proposal to extend the locum tenens period from six to 12 months, to alleviate the problem of the MCNZ and its branch advisory bodies, including ANZCA, having to assess doctors who do not intend staying for longer than a 12-month contract. The NZNC supports the proposal provided there are adequate safeguards. The locum tenens scope of practice is a temporary form of MCNZ-recognised specialist registration and applies to doctors from the UK, USA, Ireland, Canada and South Africa.
- A review of the MCNZ *Statement on use of the internet*, which sets standards for doctors when using telecommunications to practise medicine. In reviewing these resources the Council aims to allow innovation to flourish while minimising the risk to patients. As part of this review, the Council intends splitting the current statement into two separate documents, one setting [standards for communication](#) and the other [standards for the practice of telemedicine](#). The revised statements include a number of new or amended requirements. Proposed changes to the text have been highlighted. Comments close on **5 September**.
- How telemedicine involving care across international boundaries (*Medicine provided to New Zealand patients by doctors in another country*) should be regulated. The MCNZ has developed a [short discussion document](#) outlining a number of scenarios and poses some specific questions. Comments are due by **5 September**.

5.2 [MedicAlert](#)

- Proposed National Protocols, designed to improve usage of its Emergency Medical Information Record (EMIR) service.

5.3 [Pharmac](#)

- A proposal to tender certain pharmaceuticals for sole supply; and the draft process and terms and conditions for the [2011/12 Invitation to Tender](#). Submissions are due by **19 August**. If you wish to contribute comments to the NZNC submission, please send them to [Heather Ann Moodie](#) by **Monday 1 August**.

6. MEETINGS

6.1 **Annual general meetings**

The Annual General Business Meeting for ANZCA Fellows will be held on **Thursday 3 November at 5pm** as part of the [NZ Anaesthesia ASM](#) being held at the Grand Convention Centre in Auckland. The NZ Society of Anaesthetists AGM will follow at 5.30pm.

6.2 **Health Workforce New Zealand (HWNZ)**

On 11 July, Drs Geoff Long and Vanessa Beavis, for the NZNC, and NZ office General Manager Heather Ann Moodie had a lengthy and useful discussion with HWNZ Principal Policy Analyst Ruth Wiltshire. In particular, they discussed the

anaesthesia workforce review and the proposed new funding criteria for trainees. On 24 August, Dr Beavis will represent the NZNC at a stakeholder meeting that HWNZ is holding in Wellington to discuss the workforce reviews.

6.3 Director-General of Health

Also on 11 July, Drs Geoff Long and Vanessa Beavis, as well as Heather Ann Moodie, met New Zealand's new Director-General of Health, Dr Kevin Woods, to inform him about ANZCA and the role it plays in training anaesthetists and in setting and maintaining standards of practice. They were also able to advise him of the NZNC position on various issues.

6.4 Council of Medical Colleges (CMC)

The next CMC meeting will be held on Friday 12 August with NZNC Chair, Dr Geoff Long, due to represent ANZCA.

6.5 Annual trainees' forum

NZ Trainee Committee Chair Sheila Hart and Deputy Chair Rachel Demsey will represent ANZCA at the annual trainees' forum organised by the NZ Medical Association's Doctors-in-Training Council. It is being held on 27 August. The guest speakers are MCNZ Chair Dr John Adams and HWNZ Chair Professor Des Gorman. Forum attendees will also be given an NZMA update on current national political issues affecting the medical workforce and have an opportunity to discuss issues of concern in regard to training, with the aim of sharing knowledge and helping develop solutions.

6.6 MCNZ annual BAB meeting

The next meeting for MCNZ branch advisory bodies will be held on Monday 26 September.

7. ANAESTHETIC TECHNICIANS

7.1 Registration

With an Order-in-Council from the Governor-General, anaesthetic technicians in New Zealand now have the official go-ahead to be able to register under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003. Their registration will be administered by the Medical Sciences Laboratory Board (MSLB), which will change its name to the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand on 1 August in recognition of its wider scope. Registration of anaesthetic technicians will begin on 1 October this year, with the new system to be fully operational by 1 April 2012. The official go-ahead marks the end of a lengthy period of negotiation and preparation and the NZNC thanks committee member Dr Malcolm Stuart (*top photo*) and fellow FANZCA Dr Andrew Warmington (*bottom photo*), who represented the NZSA, for their huge contributions in this regard.



7.2 Scope of practice

In anticipation of the Order in Council, the MSLB sent out a consultation document in mid-June on the registration and recertification of anaesthetic technicians. Submissions closed on 15 July. The document – available on the [MLSB website](#) – sets out a registration and recertification framework for anaesthetic technicians and includes defining the profession of anaesthetic technology, scopes of practice, qualifications, competencies required for the profession of anaesthetic technology, registration and certification processes, application fees, enrolment in a recertification programme and accreditation of the Auckland University of Technology (as the prescribed qualifications provider) and training hospitals. The NZNC submission has endorsed the general thrust of the proposed registration process and scope of practice

but has reinforced its fundamental view that anaesthetic technicians should not prescribe or administer to patients, agents used for general anaesthesia and/or sedation. The NZNC view is that anaesthesia is a medical specialty and that, for the safety of the public, quality of delivery and maintenance of the current high standards, it is essential that it remains the preserve of doctors fully trained and qualified in the practice of anaesthesia.

8. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

8.1 ANZCA Teacher Course – advanced level

One-day advanced level teacher courses will be held in Auckland and Wellington on 10 and 11 November with the topic being workplace-based assessment (WBA) for trainees. As the new WBA system is a College priority, support and training for ANZCA/ FPM Fellows is seen as essential and the aim is to have as many Fellows trained in the subject as possible. The course will be freely available to anyone involved in teaching ANZCA/FPM trainees or who holds a formal ANZCA/FPM role. If you are interested in attending, please contact [Juliette Adlam](#), the Training & Education Coordinator in the New Zealand office.

8.2 Education officer meeting

In June, Dr Geoff Long, as New Zealand's National Education Officer, and Dr Jennifer Woods, as the Formal Project Officer, attended a meeting in Melbourne for ANZCA's national and regional education officers. Most of the material covered was around the [new curriculum](#), due to come into effect in December 2012 for new trainees in New Zealand but with transitional arrangements for existing trainees. Dr Long has sent supervisors of training a summary of a session covering legal issues around dealing with trainees.

8.3 Exams

In New Zealand, 49 trainees will sit the written Primary Examination on Monday 1 August in four venues (Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch). The oral section will be held in Melbourne, 19-21 September.

Enrolment for the second sitting of the Final Examination has now closed. The written and medical examination will be held on 2-3 September in Auckland, with the oral examination being held in Sydney, 21-22 October.

Congratulations to the following New Zealand trainees who obtained Merit certificates in this year's first sitting of the exams.

- Final Fellowship Examination: Drs Catherine Purdy and Kathryn Hagen.
- Primary Fellowship Examination: Dr Chang Kim (Physiology).

8.4 ANZCA webinar – obstetric anaesthesia, 1 August

Registration for the interactive webinar about obstetric anaesthesia for ANZCA trainees closes at 3pm (New Zealand time) on **Monday 1 August**. The webinar is being held that evening, 8.30-9.30pm New Zealand time. All that is required to participate is a computer with speakers and access to the internet. Although designed particularly for trainees preparing for the ANZCA Final Examination, other trainees are welcome. It is recommended that participants view the podcast before the webinar to gain maximum benefit. For more information and to register, see the [ANZCA website](#). Even if you cannot attend the webinar, the presentations remain available to view through the same link.

8.5 Deputy Formal Project Officer

Dr Hamish Gray in the Christchurch Hospital Department of Anaesthesia has been appointed Deputy Formal Project Officer, assisting the Formal Project Officer, Dr Jennifer Woods, who also works at Christchurch Hospital.

8.6 Logbooks

One of the requirements under the new curriculum will be for trainees to maintain a detailed (electronic) logbook recording what training they have done and current BTY trainees are advised to begin logbooks now to ease the transition to the [new curriculum](#).

8.7 Annual Registrar Meeting

This year's registrar meeting will be held at Auckland City Hospital on Friday 2 December. The morning session will cover practical employment topics including "Why should I hire you?", "Private Demystified", financial management, how to start in research and the Christchurch earthquake. Scientific presentations will be made in the afternoon, providing the opportunity for trainees to present their formal projects. Three prizes are awarded – the ANZCA prize for best scientific presentation, the NZSA prize for best quality assurance project and the Auckland University Caduceus Award for originality and sole contribution by the trainee. The call for abstracts is now open. Visit the [ARM](#) site on the ANZCA NZNC website for further information.

8.8 NZ Anaesthesia Part 3 Course

Registration is open for the inaugural New Zealand Anaesthesia Part 3 Course, which is being held on Saturday, 3 December at Middlemore Hospital, Auckland. It has been deliberately timed to follow on from the annual registrar meeting so that as many people as possible from out of Auckland can attend both easily. The course is a joint venture between the ANZCA NZNC and the NZSA, having been initiated by ANZCA's NZ Trainee Committee. The overarching topic is *Bridging the Gap: becoming a consultant and beyond*.

Numbers are limited to 24 to facilitate an interactive course for ANZCA senior trainees. The course will give trainees an opportunity to obtain insight into the working lives of SMOs and to discuss some of the issues that may arise when they transition from trainee to consultant, including how to write that 'consultant CV', what not to say in the interview, where FANZCA can take you, and what life is really like as a consultant. Visit the [Part 3 Course](#) site on the ANZCA NZNC website for further information.

8.9 ANZCA trainee cocktail function

ANZCA holds a 'Meet the President Trainee Cocktail Function' during each [NZ Anaesthesia Annual Scientific Meeting](#). This year's cocktail function will be held 6.15-7.15pm on Thursday 3 November. This event provides an excellent chance to meet ANZCA President Professor Kate Leslie and to catch up with trainees from around the country. The invitation is open to all trainees, regardless of whether they are attending the ASM or not. For those who come, a casual dinner out afterwards (at own expense) is being arranged. A personal e-invitation will be sent to all trainees with further information.

8.10 ANZCA training scholarships for 2012

Applications for the 2012 ANZCA training scholarships close on **Friday 5 August**, with successful applicants notified in November. ANZCA makes 20 scholarships available each year to assist anaesthesia trainees facing severe financial hardship. Each scholarship is in the form of a 50% reduction in the annual training fee for the following year. Applicants must be registered ANZCA trainees. Applications must be submitted on the prescribed 2012 ANZCA training scholarship application form, copies of which are available from the College. Contact [Jessica Stephens](#), Administrative Assistant, CEO's Office, for further information.

8.11 Christchurch training

Theatres at Christchurch Hospital are back at near normal capacity and a firm commitment to give teaching lists priority means that, despite the earthquakes, training has not been jeopardised and trainees are able to complete their modules on time. Trainees from other centres who are concerned about rotating to Christchurch are encouraged to talk to one of the Christchurch supervisors of training and may contact Deputy Clinical Director [Dr Jennifer Woods](#) in this regard.

8.12 Training positions

A [page](#) on ANZCA's NZNC website lists provisional fellowship positions available at New Zealand hospitals.

8.13 NZ Trainee Committee elections

The [NZ Trainee Committee](#) will hold its elections in October this year, earlier than usual. With many current committee members finishing their training in 2011, there will be a number of changes in personnel. Early elections will mean that the incoming members can join in the December meeting, allowing for a smooth transition. Nominations will be sought in September.

8.14 Trainee files

ANZCA is checking all trainee files to pick up omissions, errors, etc. In conjunction with this, trainees are asked to check their online profiles and contact the College if there are discrepancies.

8.15 Communication with Melbourne office

Trainees who experience problems with documentation not reaching ANZCA's Melbourne office or communication between trainees and staff may contact the relevant general managers at head office: [Ian Collens](#) for ITAs and [Alan Penny](#) for training issues.

8.16 Compassion award deadline

Nominations for ANZCA's annual Dr Ray Harder Trainee Award for Compassion close on **30 September**. The award is open to any trainee or Fellow within the first three years of being admitted to fellowship who has been observed showing exceptional concern for other people. Fellows are asked to consider possible nominations for this award. For further information on eligibility, how to nominate someone, deadlines and the application form [click here](#).

9. IMGs

9.1 IMG interviews and WBAs

Three international medical graduate interviews were held in the New Zealand office in July, one for ANZCA Fellowship purposes and the other two on behalf of the MCNZ from applicants seeking vocational registration. Four ANZCA workplace-based assessments have been scheduled in July.

10. [FACULTY OF PAIN MEDICINE](#) (FPM)

10.1 FPM Board

Professor Edward (Ted) Shipton, who practises at Burwood Hospital in Christchurch, has been elected to the FPM board.

10.2 MCNZ application

The second stage of the FPM's application to the MCNZ to have pain medicine recognised as a vocational specialty was lodged by 30 June.

10.3 FPM Spring Meeting

Registration is open for the [FPM Spring Meeting](#) being held in Canberra 28-30 October with the theme *An exploration of the pain/musculoskeletal polemics - policies, procedures and pragmatics*. For further information, please contact [Kirsty O'Connor](#) at ANZCA head office, phone +61 3 8517 5318.

11. [NZ ANAESTHESIA EDUCATION COMMITTEE \(NZAEC\)](#)

11.1 Visiting lectureships

Nominations for the 2012 NZ Anaesthesia Visiting Lectureship close on **30 September**. The NZAEC established the Visiting Lectureship in 2008 to promote the sharing of knowledge and experience through outstanding presentations among anaesthetic departments and practices. Heads of departments and practices are invited to nominate a staff member who has given an outstanding presentation at a CME session. The 2012 Visiting Lecturers should be anaesthetists who will give a stimulating, informative and well delivered presentation to their colleagues and be willing to travel to two other centres in New Zealand during 2012 to give their lectures. Anaesthetists awarded the lectureship receive an award of \$1500. To request a nomination form, please email NZAEC Administration Officer [Rose Chadwick](#).

12. APPOINTMENTS

12.1 Ministry of Health CMO

FANZCA Dr Don Mackie has been appointed [Chief Medical Officer](#) for the Ministry of Health, effective 1 August. He will also head the Ministry's Clinical Leadership, Protection and Regulation Business Unit. With a clinical background in anaesthesia and the management of emergency medicine, Dr Mackie joins the Ministry having been Chief Medical Officer at Counties Manukau District Health Board since October 2005 and chair of the national Chief Medical Adviser's group since October 2007. Before that he had extensive clinical experience in New Zealand and the United Kingdom. He has also held clinical teaching and academic posts in the United States.

12.2 Deputy Health & Disability Commissioner

Ms Theo Baker has been [appointed Deputy Health & Disability Commissioner](#), succeeding Ms Rae Lamb. Ms Baker is a senior lawyer with extensive experience in the medico-legal field. She has previously worked at the Health & Disability Commission (HDC) as legal counsel and as Director of Proceedings. As well as Deputy Commissioner, she is the general manager of the HDC complaints resolution division." Ms Baker begins her five-year term this month.

13. [HEALTH WORKFORCE NEW ZEALAND \(HWNZ\)](#)

13.1 Medical trainee funding criteria

HWNZ has released proposed prioritisation criteria for its investment plan, with commentary that refers to "expanded roles and scopes of practice to make better use of existing workforces". HWNZ says its interest is in funding the training component and not the service component of medical trainees, the latter being the responsibility of the employer. At its July meeting, the NZNC expressed concern that the training/service ratio that HWNZ has adopted was unrealistic and the committee is taking this up with HWNZ.

In a letter to stakeholders clarifying some of the proposals, HWNZ Director Brenda Wraight said that as almost all HWNZ's medical training funding was committed in contracts until June 2012, there would be no change before then. Any change from July 2012 onwards would be signalled well in advance and phased in over the next three to four years, she said. Brenda Wraight said that the proposed formula for

calculating HWNZ's contribution to training for medical trainees was intended to create a base from which a percentage "loading" would be applied depending on, for example, supply and demand pressures relative to the vulnerability or criticality of a particular workforce. She is convening a small working group to assist in developing the funding formula, including refining the definitions of vulnerability and criticality. The NZNC has asked if a representative can be involved in the working group, which is due to report to the HWNZ Board in August. Final draft Investment Prioritisation Criteria will then be circulated for comment in September and the final version integrated into HWNZ's decision-making processes from October 2011.

13.2 GP Training Review

Feedback on HWNZ's proposed changes to the general practice education programme is being analysed and will be presented to HWNZ, the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners and the MCNZ for decision making during July and August. A summary report of the feedback will be issued on the discussion paper's [website](#).

13.3 Regional training hubs

HWNZ says the Northern and Midlands training hubs are operational as of 1 July with work continuing to get the Central and Southern hubs up and running.

13.4 Clinical training survey

HWNZ received over 1000 responses to its recent survey on postgraduate clinical training and the development of the regional training hubs. The aim of the survey was to identify existing networks and relationships within and across the regional hubs, to ensure the key bodies across the continuum of training are linked into this process, and to help build on those relationships for the future. The survey results are due to be released shortly.

13.5 Workforce reviews

Workforce service reviews on youth health and diabetes were presented to the HWNZ Board in June. Summaries and full reports are available on the [HWNZ website](#).

13.6 Retention of older doctors

As part of its aim to increase medical workforce capacity, HWNZ is investigating ways to address workforce trends among older doctors, including developing and implementing recruitment initiatives. It wants to encourage and support older doctors to remain in the health sector for longer. This could include the development of advice, guidelines and support for career opportunities such as mentoring or teaching or other roles in medicine after leaving clinical practice.

14. [FROM THE MINISTER](#)

Recent announcements from the Minister of Health, the Hon Tony Ryall, include the following:

14.1 Updated medicines regulations

The Medicines Regulations 1984 and the Medicines (Standing Order) Regulations 2002 have been amended to align the law more with modern medical practice. See the Minister's [media release](#) for detail about the amendments. The Government has also agreed to amend the Medicines Act covering prescribing to:

- align prescribing rights of all health professionals with independent prescribing rights – medical practitioners, dentists, midwives, nurse practitioners and optometrists – and require them to prescribe within their scopes of practice for patients under their care; and
- create a new category of prescriber – a delegated prescriber – under the supervision of an independent prescriber, allowing highly trained health

professionals in a collaborative team environment and under supervision, to prescribe within their scope of practice, for a specific group of patients.

14.2 [Canterbury DHB payment](#)

The Government has pledged a special payment of up to \$16 million to Canterbury District Health Board for earthquake related costs in the 2010/11 financial year that ended on 30 June. The Minister said the additional payment would ensure that the DHB broke even and that earthquake costs to date were covered. Further special payments will be made to the DHB over the next couple of years to cover ongoing extra costs expected as a result of the quakes. He also said that work was proceeding separately on capital requirements for hospital facilities damaged in the Canterbury quakes.

14.3 [Endoscopy trial](#)

Four district health boards (DHBs) will trial a programme to lift performance in endoscopy units and make procedures such as colonoscopy a more comfortable experience. Waitemata, Lakes, Wairarapa and Canterbury have been selected to run the year-long trial, beginning in August. The programme is based on a UK protocol called the Global Rating Scale (GRS). Three years after being introduced, UK endoscopy units increased the number of patients being seen on time from 16% to 82%. GRS establishes protocols for endoscopy units to measure their performance, identify weak points and make improvements.

14.4 [National cardiac surgery update](#)

A [National Cardiac Surgery Update](#) detailing recent improvements in cardiac surgery has been released and the Cardiac Surgery Clinical Network is being expanded to become the New Zealand Cardiac Network. The new network will oversee and coordinate improvements that focus on the full range of cardiac care, not just surgery, to ensure people have greater access to cardiac services.

14.5 [\\$12m to test health treatments](#)

The government is providing \$12 million over four years to trial health innovations and new technologies that improve patient care. The new innovation fund will be managed by a revamped National Health Committee (NHC), which will advise the Minister on new diagnostic and treatment innovations that are cost effective and proven, and should be publicly funded. The fund will support the trial, test or assessment of new technologies. The Minister said that rather than innovations being introduced in silos, the National Health Committee would provide clear guidance on which new services should be funded, instead of leaving it up to 20 individual DHBs.

14.6 [Exam preparation for overseas doctors](#)

The first people on a government programme to help overseas-trained doctors prepare for New Zealand registration will take their medical registration exam by the end of August. HWNZ has developed the programme with input from the MCNZ. It is to help prepare unregistered international medical graduates living in New Zealand for the MCNZ's registration exams. The first intake comprised eight candidates from eight countries. Interviews are under way for a second intake of up to 10 candidates.

15. [MEDICAL COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND \(MCNZ\)](#)

15.1 [Medical Workforce Survey 2010](#)

[The New Zealand Medical Workforce in 2010](#), report, which is available on the Medical Council website, indicates that the number of specialist anaesthetists declined slightly in 2010 – down to 678 from 687 in 2009. The report said that 46% of registered anaesthetists were international medical graduates. Its trainee figures (which differ from ANZCA's) indicated that there were 182 anaesthesia trainees in

2010, 53% of whom were men and 47% women. Anaesthesia was the third largest group of trainees, after general practice and internal medicine.

15.2 MCNZ accreditation panel

The NZNC is nominating Drs Leona Wilson, Vaughan Laurenson and Malcolm Stuart for inclusion in an MCNZ pool from which nominations for membership on joint accreditation teams to assess specialist colleges will be made.

15.3 Prevocational Medical Education Forum

The MCNZ is hosting, on behalf of the Confederation of Postgraduate Medical Education Council, the [16th National Prevocational Medical Education Forum](#) in Auckland from 6-9 November. The forum brings together national and international professionals committed to medical education, including clinical trainers and educators, health service managers, resident doctors, educational researchers and other academics interested in healthcare education. The focus is on the years between medical school graduation and entry in vocational training. The forum has been the primary vehicle in Australasia for the development of medical education for doctors during their post-graduate years. The theme for this year's forum is *Bridging the Gap: from Medical School to Vocational*.

15.4 Medical Council News

The July 2011 edition of the [Medical Council News](#) is available on the MCNZ website. It contains a discussion about what trainees want out of their prevocational training and proposals to change the PGY1 & 2 years; a profile of the Health Quality & Safety Commission by its chair, Professor Alan Merry; an article on ethics; and one on Vocational Practice Reviews (VPAs) – part of the MCNZ assessment process for international medical graduates.

16. [PHARMAC](#)

16.1 [Dabigatran notification](#)

As Pharmac began funding dabigatran (Pradaxa) without Special Authority restriction from 1 July, dabigatran capsules are now listed in Section B (community) and in Part II of Section H (DHB hospitals) of the Pharmaceutical Schedule. [Further information and resources](#), including guidelines on the management of dabigatran in emergency situation, tests that can be done to measure its effect and management of dabigatran perioperatively, are available on the Pharmac website.

16.2 [Musculoskeletal system pharmaceuticals](#)

From 1 July, Pharmac is fully funding ketoprofen long-acting capsules and tiaprofenic acid tablets through an agreement with Sanofi-Aventis New Zealand Ltd. It also delisted byaluronidase injection from Section Ba of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from the same date. Following consultation, Pharmac decided not to remove the Special Authority for Manufacturer's Price, which provides full subsidy for partly subsidised non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) for patients with approvals prior to 1 September 2010.

17. LAW COMMISSION

17.1 Death and cremation certification

The Law Commission has extended the deadline for submissions on its issues paper, [Death and Cremation Certification in New Zealand](#), which examines the strengths and weaknesses of New Zealand's death and cremation certification systems with a particular focus on how well the system is identifying deaths that are reportable to the Coroner. The review follows reforms in Britain with the New Zealand Law Commission noting that the New Zealand system shares many of the features of the

pre-reformed British systems, including a reliance on a single certifying doctor and an absence of any nationalised system of monitoring or auditing. The British systems came under scrutiny after the Dr Harold Shipman case. Submissions now close on **30 July**.

18. OTHER NEWS

18.1 BOC gas bottle change

BOC has advised that its cylinder packaging is changing to meet agreed standards that require medical cylinders to be distinguished from industrial cylinders. The medical cylinder body colour will be all white as per the Australian standard AS4484-2004. The rollout of the new cylinders will commence in the second half of 2011 with the intention that it be completed by the end of 2012. BOC will also be testing tamper-evident seals and rolling them out across the medical fleet once their suitability is confirmed.

18.2 Intensive care document review

The [College of Intensive Care Medicine](#) is reviewing the documents *IC-1 (Minimum Standards for Intensive Care Units)* and *IC-2 (Intensive Care Specialist Practice in Hospital Accredited for Training in Intensive Care Medicine)*. Among other things, these documents will now give firm guidelines on the number of patients a single intensivist may reasonably be expected to care for in a normal working day and during an on-call period. Guidance is also offered about how much non-clinical time should be allocated for unit directors, supervisors of training and for all intensivists for their CPD and other non-clinical duties.

18.3 Research funding

The [Health Research Council of New Zealand](#) (HRC) is holding roadshows throughout New Zealand in August to let people know about opportunities for funding. The roadshows will kick off with an introduction and welcome by Dr Robin Olds, HRC Chief Executive, and will include information on:

- types of contracts available
- important closing dates and timelines
- the submission and assessment process
- a question and answer session.

Click [here](#) for dates and venues.

18.4 Re-activation of ANZTPA

On 20 June, the Prime Ministers of New Zealand and Australia agreed to the phased establishment of a joint Australia-New Zealand Therapeutic Products Agency (ANZTPA). Beginning from July this year, ANZTPA will progressively establish common regulatory arrangements for therapeutic goods and a single trans-Tasman entry point for business. It will regulate medicines, medical devices and new medical interventions and is expected to be fully operational as a single joint body within five years. Over time, the joint arrangements will be administered by a single regulatory agency, the Australia New Zealand Therapeutic Products Agency, which will absorb the current regulators – Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration and New Zealand's Medsafe. Initially, natural health products in New Zealand will not be regulated by ANZTPA. Instead, the government intends to introduce a natural health products regulatory scheme, administered through a unit within the Ministry of Health but separate from MedSafe. For more details, click [here](#).

18.5 Assistance wanted

Northland GP Dr Michael McGivern is again looking for equipment that could be used in the Philippines, particularly in the emergency department and the intensive care unit of a hospital in Bacolod City. He says that currently they do not have any

workable ventilators and or incubators. Ventilated infants and children have to be manually bagged. There is a huge shortage of bag and mask units and airways, and they are having to patch the BVMs as they are unable to afford new ones. If anyone can assist, please email Dr McGivern or phone (09) 401 9829 or 021 547 166.

19. LIBRARY SERVICES

19.1 Library use

The ANZCA library has operated a policy for about nine years of not lending books out of Australia. The NZNC has been working with the library to address this inequity. A key issue is the courier cost involved in sending books back and forth across the Tasman. One possible solution is to stock more books in the New Zealand library. However, it is difficult to assess demand for any particular text because Fellows, trainees and others on the ANZCA CPD Program have been discouraged from requesting loans due to the lending policy. It would be helpful, therefore, if New Zealand Fellows, trainees and others entitled to borrow from the library requested texts irrespective of the lending policy so that demand can be assessed. In the meantime, there will be a trial of sending books to New Zealand again on request to assess the costs involved, so all those entitled to use the library are encouraged to request the books they need.

19.2 Melbourne library

New Zealand-based Fellows, trainees and others entitled to use the ANZCA library do have access to the rest of ANZCA's extensive [library service](#), including a journal subscription service, databases through which you can search for articles, research assistance, the ability to sign up for RSS or email alerts on topics, educational resources for trainees, e-books and more.

19.3 New Zealand library

A core collection of the syllabus anaesthetic textbooks is held at the New Zealand office for local members. A list of those books can be viewed [here](#) or by selecting 'New Zealand' from the location drop-down box of the [main library catalogue](#). Books may be borrowed for three weeks, but an extension may be requested. The Melbourne library staff coordinate all requests for New Zealand library books, so when requesting an item from the catalogue, please include your name, ID number and current postal address to ensure prompt delivery.

19.4 New books for NZ library

The New Zealand office has received the following two books for its library:

- *Rang and Dale's pharmacology* / Rang, H.P.; Dale, M.M.; Ritter, J.M.; Flower, R.J.; Henderson, G.; Ritter, J.M.; Dale, M.M.; Moore, P.K. -- 7th ed -- Edinburgh: Elsevier Churchill Livingstone, 2012. (Book) 615.1 RAN.



- *Crisis management in anesthesiology* / Gaba, David M; Fish, Kevin J; Howard, Steven K. -- New York; Melbourne: Churchill Livingstone, 1994. (Book) 617.96041 GAB.

20. ANZCA CONFERENCES AND COURSES

20.1 NZ Anaesthesia ASM 2011 *Auckland, 2-5 November 2011*

[Registration](#) is open for the New Zealand Anaesthesia ASM, being held in Auckland 2-5 November. [Abstract submission](#) closes on 26 August. All exhibition booths have been sold and there is an exciting and varied programme exploring the theme, *New Horizons*. The meeting also emphasises research with a best poster prize and a session for the Ritchie Award and trainee free paper. There are also plenty of networking opportunities. The main sponsors are Covidien and Baxter Healthcare.



20.2 13th ICCVA/NZ Anaesthesia ASM 2012 *Auckland, 14-17 November 2012*

This conference will combine the 2012 International Congress of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia (ICCVA) with the New Zealand Anaesthesia Annual Scientific Meeting, a joint undertaking between the NZ Society of Anaesthetists and ANZCA. To register your interest and for more information, see the [conference website](#).



WHAT BECOMES OF
THE BROKEN HEARTED?
Outcomes and how to change them
2012 Combined Meeting of the 13th International
Congress of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia

20.3 NZ Anaesthesia ASM 2013 *Dunedin, 6-9 November 2013*

The NZ A ASM 2013 will be held in Dunedin with the theme *Aiming for Excellence*. Its organising committee includes anaesthetists from Dunedin and Southland Hospitals, with Dr Campion Read as convenor.

21. OTHER CONFERENCES AND COURSES

21.1 Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee (PMMRC) workshop *Wellington, 11 August 2011*

Topics at this PMMRC workshop include New Zealand perinatal and maternal mortality statistics; perinatal mortality and young mothers, early booking, potentially avoidable deaths – what can the sector do? Click [here](#) for more details.

21.2 Mental Health Law Conference 2011 *Wellington, 12 August; Dunedin, 18 August; Christchurch, 19 August; Hamilton, 25 August; Auckland 26 August.*

Buddle Findlay and the Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law (ANZAPPL) are hosting the third annual Mental Health Law Conference. This full-day meeting provides a forum for inter-disciplinary discussion of key legal issues facing lawyers, clinicians and consumers working in mental health with a view to continuing to improve the way in which mental health services are provided in New Zealand. For more information or to register, contact [Iris Reuevecamp](#), Senior Associate, Buddle Findlay, phone (04) 498 7337 or 021 869 361.

21.3 Australasian College of Legal Medicine 2011 ASM *Queenstown, 13-14 August*

The [Australasian College of Legal Medicine](#) provides a network for health professionals who have completed dual qualifications in law and medicine or dentistry, or whose areas of practice are significantly affected by the law. The aim of the College is to provide the health profession and the community with a better understanding of the legal implications involved in the practice of medicine. The

theme of this year's [annual scientific meeting in Queenstown](#) is *an international comparison of developments in forensic and legal medicine*. Keynote speakers come from New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom.

21.4 AQUA 2011

Queenstown, 26-27 August 2011

The third [Annual Queenstown Update in Anaesthesia](#) will feature ANZCA Councillors Professor Alan Merry from Auckland and Associate Professor David Scott from Melbourne.

22. USEFUL WEBSITES FOR CPD EVENTS

For further details and updates of national and international meetings, check the following websites:

- <http://www.anzca.edu.au/events/events/>
- <http://www.anzca.org.nz/new-zealand-courses/new-zealand-events.html>
- <http://www.acecc.org.au>
- <http://www.anaesthesia.org.nz>
- <http://www.anaesthesia.org.nz/nzaec>

GASBAG

Gasbag is an electronic newsletter published by the New Zealand National Committee of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists.

Publication Dates 2011

Other issues planned for 2011 are:

- Issue 60 Wednesday 24 August
Issue 61 Wednesday 5 October
Issue 62 Wednesday 9 November
Issue 63 Wednesday 14 December

Comments and suggestions for items are welcome. Please send to ANZCA NZ's Communications Manager, [Susan Ewart](#). If you wish to have an item included in a particular issue, please send it by the Friday prior to the publication date.

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When I
broke this, my
daddy said I needed
some Pamol and to
go to bed...

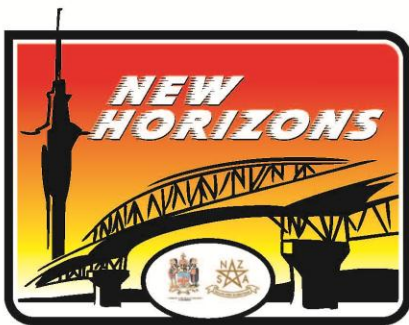


I told him I
needed some
transdermal opioid and
a GABA analogue.
He's off to Auckland to
see who's right.



*New Pain therapies
New Methods of Delivery
Pain Psychology*

Prof Jamie Sleight (NZ)
Prof Guy Ludbrook (Aus)
Prof Keith Petrie (NZ)



NEW ZEALAND ANAESTHESIA ASM 2011

GRAND CONVENTION CENTRE AUCKLAND
2 - 5 NOVEMBER 2011

www.nzaasm2011.co.nz