



Minutes of the New Zealand Association of General Surgeons

AGM 23rd March 2019

Held at the Christchurch Town Hall, Christchurch at 1pm

Present: Please see sign in sheets – a quorum was reached.

1. Apologies were received from:

Richard Perry

Condolences to the families of the following surgeons who have passed away

Herbert Dick Rawson, William (Bill) Owen Sawtell Phillipps

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held at the Copthorne Hotel on 17th March 2017 at 1pm.

Andrew Moot proposed that the minutes are accepted as a true and accurate record. Seconded by Philippa Mercer. Carried

3. Matters arising – nil

4. Reports

a. President's Report

As read

b. Executive Director's Report

As read

Bronwen asked members to register for conference in advance rather than simply showing up as it meant they have no name tags, food numbers are wrong, dinner sells out so that last-minute registrations cannot attend, and the conference venue may not take everyone.

c. Treasurer's Report

Peter Shapkov noted that NZAGS was in good financial health, with \$39,096 surplus and \$1.386M in reserves.

d. Training report

As read

5. Ratification of Annual Membership subscription

Peter moved that the NZAGS Executive would like to raise the Membership subscription by CPI which is currently 1.2%. A full membership would rise to \$540 per annum. Passed by a unanimous majority. Carried.

6. Re-appointment of auditors

Peter moved that Deloitte are appointed as the auditors for the 2019 accounts. Passed by a unanimous majority. Carried.

7. Ratification of New Executive members

The following new members of the Executive were welcomed and ratified:-

Aleksandra Popadich and Usha Shan

Julian Speight on behalf of the Executive, thanked Ian Burton for his considerable contribution to the Executive as the representative for Private Practice.

8. New Zealand Board in General Surgery

Simon Bann gave an update on the recent split of the former bi-national Board in General Surgery into national boards as of 1st December 2018.

9. CADENZA update

Gowan Creamer explained that CADENZA is all about Care Delivery in New Zealand for the Acute Abdomen. It is all about informing care delivery in real time, at the same time providing useful information for audit. The tool uses standard questions to get a P-POSSUM score to inform management. Gowan noted that historically there has been an issue with IT departments competing whereas this project has seen collaboration.

10. Southern Cross and NIB

Ian Burton reported that Southern Cross had advised NZAGS in 2018 that there had been an increase in spending on skin cancers. Southern Cross announced in December 2018 that The max for an average SX client for skin is \$5000 but it is more for Ultracare members. I can't recall just how much.

Southern Cross also updated policy holders with what will and will not be covered. At the same Southern Cross has reduced the surgeon fee payable for multiple skin lesions (on their websites and pamphlets are available for your private practice so members are clear). Previously the pricing was 100% for first lesion, 75% for second, 50% for third and subsequent lesions. The new fee structure is 100% for

first lesion, 40% for any subsequent lesions. The 40% adjustment is for hospital skin cases not rooms (so far!!!!)

Ian reported that NIB was hoping to move all surgeons into their 1st Choice provider Programme. However, only 25% of surgeons are signed up on the portal. The claims process will be through their portal only sometime this year so it would pay to trial it and feedback and changes required. Ian urged members to make sure they are added. The benefit with working as a provider for NIB is that there are no contracts with NIB – thus they will pay a reasonable fee.

We offered again to beta test NIB's new portal at the meeting last year but once again they declined. They did say that changes would be made if problems arise so it will pay for members to contact NIB if they have problems with the portal.

Ian Burton advised that Vanessa Blair is taking over and that Lincoln Israel has offered to assist the Executive with regards the private insurer consultations.

Vanessa Blair thanked Ian for all his hard work regarding the private insurers. Vanessa offered to advise and assist any surgeon contemplating entering private work.

11. General Business

None

Julian Speight reminded all attendees of the 2020 conference in New Plymouth is to be convened by Nigel Henderson.

Julian thanked the conveners of the current ASM – Philippa Mercer, Grant Coulter and Ross Roberts for all their work, especially in the circumstances of the terror attack a week ago.

The meeting closed at 1.23pm

