

## **NZAGS Executive Committee Zoom Meeting 10 March 2020 7.30pm**

**In Attendance:** Julian Speight (President), Graeme Roadley (Vice-President, Andrew Moot (Past-President), Peter Shapkov (treasurer), Bronwen Evans (executive Director/Secretary), Vanessa Blair, Jasen Ly, Aleksandra Popadich, Nigel Henderson, Grant Coulter, David Moss

**Apologies:** Simon Bann, Rowan French, Gowan Creamer, John Lengyel, Ashwini Pondicherry, Usha Shan

### **1. Ratification of the 30 Nov 2019 Financial Statements**

Julian had a query about the Other Fixed Assets amounts in the Note to The Accounts page – the amount is \$4,444 and the three figures are purely the sum of the Fixed Assets so it's not three different items at \$4,444 it's only one, then sub-totaled and then totaled.

The Executive voted to accept the financial statements proposed by Vanessa Blair and seconded by Nigel Henderson

### **2. Discussion on cancelling the 2020 New Plymouth ASM**

Jonathan Foo in WA communicated that his hospital had forbidden international travel and any attendance at a conference, so he had to withdraw from speaking at the ASM. RACS advised their president and CEO etc. would no longer be coming.

Many health conferences were being cancelled given the radiologist conference in Australia and the cases now in Liverpool Hospital.

Financially we do have insurance but not sure if it covers us for this situation. We made a \$50k profit in 2019 which may have to be used to cover the costs of the cancellation if insurance does not cover us.

Peter Shapkov stated that the decision should be focused on protecting the DHB's, patients, our members, other health professionals and the public at large.

The Executive agreed that if the conference did go ahead we would cancel any overseas speakers or perhaps they could ZOOM in.

David Moss confirmed that with 100% of trainees attending, the training day would likely be canceled. This was to protect the hospital workforce should a 14 day stand down period be required. They could hold the second TD in New Plymouth later in the year, but Nigel suggested that it would be better held where there were more staff at a larger hospital.

It was agreed the risk of the spread of the virus, or an isolation situation occurring, was extremely low, but give the public perception of a surgical society holding a conference in this environment and the slight risk there could be a stand down period invoked, it was agreed NZAGS could not be seen to be risk taking.

All risks were considered including community health, personal risk to health care workers and other individuals involved in the meeting. The safety of every individual was paramount in reaching the decision. As health care professionals the Executive Committee felt we have a higher level of responsibility to the community and obligation to promote a culture of infection prevention.

***Via email or at the meeting the following members voted to cancel the ASM.***

Simon Bann, David Moss, Grant Coulter, Peter Shapkov, Vanessa Blair, Jasen Ly, Aleksandra Popadich, Julian Speight,

***Opposed to cancelling:***

Nigel Henderson, Andrew Moot, Graeme Roadley

It was agreed to cancel the New Plymouth meeting but to try to move it to 2021 or 2022, the same programme and speakers etc. to ensure all the hard work Nigel and Glenn had done was not wasted.

The AGM – it was proposed to request an extension to the 31 May deadline, and see if it could be held at the RACS ASM in Queenstown in August if that goes ahead. Otherwise we can run a ZOOM AGM.

Action: Bronwen to draft a letter to be sent to attendees and members for Julian Speight to review. Bronwen to talk with Greg Sharp at Workz4u to discuss the process and check the insurance contract.

Action: Bronwen to apply for an extension to our AGM date and to arrange refunds for attendees.

**Meeting closed at 8.35pm**