

Orthoptics Australia NSW Branch  
General Meeting  
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010  
Camden Valley INN, Camden Valley NSW

Meeting commenced at 11.20am and closed at 12.35pm

**Present:** Liane Wilcox, Nhung Nguyen, Michelle Courtney-Harris, Mara Giribaldi, Sue Sutton, Carolyn Gibbons, Sue Anderson, Cindy Dykes, Melinda Rice, Sandra Marshall, Robyn Kiernicki, Elizabeth Fox, Lindley Leonard, Louise Brennan, Litovanh Phothirath, Belinda Leung, Vinnici Lee, Yeri Kang, Nora Abdulwahab, Arthika Singh, Kristen Saba, Sonia Biondi, Heather Crossman, Lorraine Ford, Lyn Butler, Laura Hartley, Kathy Rose, Elaine Cornell,  
**Apologies:** Ann Vince, Robyn Caldwell, Val Tosswill, Barbara Dennison, Sue Silveira, Corrine Brignell, Ann McFarlane

Minutes of previous meeting March 14<sup>th</sup> 2009 accepted, Prop: Michelle Courtney-Harris 2<sup>nd</sup> Melanie Rice

**Business Arising:**

1. Name Change: new name of Orthoptics Australia now in place and should be used
2. Award: A lot of information has already been distributed about the award in past newsletters. The AMA has also had a lot of problems understanding the new Modern Award.
  - a. To help members understand how the new modern award will affect us, a response was asked about the idea that David from Health & Life come to talk to us about the award. A seminar will be held focussing on workplace conditions, awards and workplace agreements. The idea was proposed of half day to be spent on the award and the other half on practice management. The date April 17<sup>th</sup> is the proposed date.
  - b. The cost of holding the seminar was discussed in short the minimum cost will be \$4000 as we need to pay for flights & accommodation for 2 people plus the fee of \$3000 for speaking. We are hoping to run this jointly with RANZCO so they can absorb some of the costs proposed fees are \$50 member & \$150 for non-members and practice managers. It was emphasised that it is stated that your pay cannot be decreased (you must be paid as it states in the current NSW award) even though you are on the modern award but what that does mean is that there will be no pay increase either as the modern award is much lower.

**Reports:**

- What's happened over the last 12 months –
  - There has been a slight change in council with Val Toswill rejoining the ranks.
  - We now have a new editor of the newsletter.
  - We have been busy archiving records that have been in storage.
  - Prescribing rights become effective July 2010.
  - The eye health Forum took place recently. So far \$14 million has been spent on sTEPS. The program still has some issues in that little or no outcomes can be assessed adequately. But the program is to be maintained and will be ongoing. For those not aware 2RPH is a radio station for the blind. And the Optoms are making a big push in to eye clinics etc due to the new pharmaceuticals program / training they do.
- Federal
  - PAMS is the new National Office located in Melbourne contact is Shweta Desai new email is [office@orthoptic.org.au](mailto:office@orthoptic.org.au)
  - The new name and logo design has been distributed to all partner organisations now

- The current Orthoptics Journal is in delay
- 1/6/10 all orthoptists who refract can only do so if have national registration (AOB) some changes to the definition have occurred
- November 21-24 is the Annual Conference to be held in Adelaide
- There will be NO Squint Club meeting in 2010 due to the Asia Pacific conference being held in Sydney
- Continuing Education
  - August 2009 45 attendees for the day
  - Camden 65 attendees for Saturday & 63 for Sunday
  - In May there will be an up-skill held in glaucoma & Refractive Surgery details TBA
  - Next continuing Ed for August 2010 we are talking with Novartis & Zeiss to host
  - Lorraine Ford was the winner of the rural grant for 2010
  - Some locations were proposed for 2011 March Continuing Ed –Hawkesbury Sebel got the most votes
- Workplace Conditions
  - New award became available October 2009 but in
  - January 2010 the Modern Award was activated this means we will again have difficulties when the existing award expires
  - The Public award is to be revised in June 2010 we are not sure how this will affect rates of pay
  - Join the HSU – provide a voice for Orthoptics
- Promotions & Development - looked at diabetes and the eye for Orthoptics awareness week
  - There was a joint venture with Diabetes Australia undertaken. A big thanks to Katie Scanlon for her contribution. Email blasts were sent as well as displays at SHE, CHW, & Bankstown Hospitals. It is encourage that you put up displays in private practices as people do like to read while they are waiting to be seen
  - Will let you know when NEW brochures etc are available
- GMTC Louise Brennan stood in for Sue Silveira
  - There is an invitation to become part of the Orthoptic Standing Committee
  - GMCT has undergone a change to ACI (Association for clinical Innovation)
  - This year there was 86 delegates that attended the Eye Health forum Next year please come all Orthoptists welcome
- Rural Report
  - Concern has been raised about the sustainability of allied Health in rural areas
  - The area is in need of some young input to ensure Orthoptists are available in rural in the future. Encourage students.
- School Report
  - Elaine has decreased to 2days/wk doing research mostly
  - Margaret Smith retired at the end of 2009 and Kriscia Tappia is helping with administration matters
  - Jan Howlett resigned at the end of 2009 and acknowledged for her efforts in clinical Ed especially when it was undergoing a lot of change
  - New Staff has arrived – Michelle Courtney-Harris is now the Clinical Educator and lecturing she is available full time, Philippa Loxton has joined the team full time as a discipline specialist (tutor), Irina Sims is still with us but has increased her hours to 3days/wk, Liane Wilcox, Sandra Marshall & Ana Alexandriatos are also part of the teaching staff
  - 2010 will see 28 B.App.Sci's graduate and 9 Masters students
  - Emails have changes now are [firstname.surname@sydney.edu.au](mailto:firstname.surname@sydney.edu.au)
  - The Masters will be becoming the primary program for Orthoptics
  - Neryla Jolly is to be awarded the Excellence in teaching Award she was nominated by the students

New members were welcomed