



orthoptics
australia

Striving For Excellence In Eye Health Care

2018 -2019 Annual Report

Orthoptics Australia - Diamond Anniversary

Emmie Russell (1892-1987) was instrumental in establishing the Orthoptic Association of Australia in 1944. She was first OA President, a councillor, honorary life member and was the first orthoptist to be a patron.



75
orthoptics
australia
diamond anniversary



CONTENTS

3	Contents
----------	-----------------

4	President's Report
----------	---------------------------

6	Vision for the Future and Strategic Plan
----------	---

7	Membership
----------	-------------------

8	Council
----------	----------------

9	Australian Orthoptic Journal
----------	-------------------------------------

10	Orthoptics Australia 2018 Annual Conference
-----------	--

12	Awards
-----------	---------------

13	Committees and Representatives
-----------	---------------------------------------

18	State Branches and Council Representatives
-----------	---

22	Affiliations
-----------	---------------------

23	Industry Partners and Sponsors
-----------	---------------------------------------



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Marion Rivers
Orthoptics Australia President

Welcome to the Orthoptics Australia new look Annual Report. This is a snapshot of the 2018/19 year in which we celebrate 75 years of having a member association for orthoptists in Australia.



From small beginnings in 1944, with just six orthoptists across Australia, Orthoptics Australia has become a dynamic and diverse association supporting orthoptists in a variety of settings here in Australia and across the world with membership of the International Orthoptic Association. Our Diamond Jubilee celebrations will culminate at our 2019 conference later this year celebrating all that has been achieved in our 75 years.

2018/19 Year in Review

It is a great pleasure to report that Orthoptics Australia has been on a steady path to financial stability as can be seen in the auditor's report for this financial year. It is very gratifying to be in surplus this year. Orthoptics Australia's partnership with Association Professionals has taken the burden of administration away from Council members. Setting up professional guidelines for smooth operations and meetings has enabled Council to focus on the business of supporting and advocating for our profession and members. Thanks to Elaine Trevaskis and her team at Association Professionals for their guidance and support. Orthoptics Australia has been joined this year by Wendy Weston our Executive Officer working with the executive, Council and Association Professionals to ensure Orthoptics Australia operates efficiently.

Council continues to work towards achieving the Association's strategic goals and will again review these following this year's Annual General Meeting. The strategic plan outlined two years ago and in line with the objects of our Association, guide the work of Orthoptics Australia's Council and various Committees to provide our members with the best possible outcomes for the development of the profession and to support eye care in the community.

Orthoptics Australia continues to support members through offerings such as continuing professional education, industry sector engagement and government liaison. Through this we have seen high retention of members and continued growth.



The early years – an Orthoptist at work

The Association also offers an extensive suite of awards and research grants to support both existing members and younger emerging practitioners. Some monetary support is being made available to our student orthoptic societies.

Orthoptics Australia's showcase event, the 2018 Annual Conference was a great success in Adelaide. We owe a great deal of thanks to our conference organisers Shandell Wishart and Natalie Ainscough. The small Adelaide team of orthoptists did a fantastic job, in what was a difficult year of transition with our management systems. We had our biggest trade display ever and a wide diversity of scientific papers.

Orthoptic Awareness Week continues to be an important event for us to highlight the work of the profession and generate on-line interest. Our communications group does a great job of keeping us informed of events and continuing education programs through social media feeds.

Orthoptics Australia Links

Orthoptics Australia signed Memorandums of Understanding with the Macular Disease Foundation, Glaucoma Australia and KeepSight, the Diabetes Australia initiative to register all those with diabetes to ensure early detection of eye disease and prevent diabetic retinopathy.

As a supporting partner of Vision 2020, we are actively involved in their four subcommittees to enable better outcomes for eye health in the community. This partnership also provides the opportunity to have our voices heard at Federal Parliamentary level in the search to eliminate avoidable blindness in our community.

Orthoptics Australia is a member of the Allied Health Professions Association. This forum gives us a valuable alliance with other allied health professions to engage with government on areas of mutual interest. There is a strength in the numbers of allied health professionals that is recognised by government.

Orthoptics Australia Volunteers

Thank you to our retiring council members. Firstly Julie Hall. Julie retired after her time as President and a long period on Council. She saw the need for reform and started the process of renewal. State representatives, Gayani Gunasekara, Natalie Ainscough and Louise Maher retired during the year from Council and the Association is very grateful to them. New councillors are Amanda French, Lachlan Knight and Faren Willett, who are already making a valuable contribution.



Emmie Russell (1892-1987), Orthoptics Australia's first President

A series of Committees and Working Groups have been established to support the work of Council. Many other members also kindly offer to support and represent Orthoptics Australia on occasion. Sincere thanks to all these amazing members.

Our Journal editors Meri Vukicevic and Linda Santamaria continue to provide us with a high-quality scientific journal now published online. We are close to finalising a new and improved online journal experience for all researchers and readers. We thank our editors for their hard work and dedication. Having an Australian Scientific Journal to enable Australian orthoptists to be published and widely read is a wonderful achievement.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Orthoptics Australia's Vision:
Striving for excellence
in eye health care by

Promoting
and advancing
the discipline
of orthoptics

Improving eye health
care for patients
in public hospitals,
ophthalmology
practices, and the
wider community

Supporting members
by ensuring they receive
quality service to further
their work and career
opportunities

STRATEGIC PLAN

The core objectives of the Orthoptics Australia Strategic Plan are:

- 1 To promote the study of the science and practice of orthoptics; to promote investigation and research in orthoptics and related sciences.
- 2 To institute and conduct conferences, lectures, seminars, symposia and discussions upon orthoptics and related sciences for the benefit of members of the Association.
- 3 To institute, provide and contribute to scholarships, grants, awards, prizes, trusts and other benefactions in connection with the study of orthoptics and related sciences.
- 4 To acquire, establish, print, publish, issue and circulate such journals, magazines, periodicals, circulars, calendars or other literary or scientific works as may seem conducive to the promotion of the objects of the Association.
- 5 To co-operate with similar bodies within Australia and overseas.
- 6 To cultivate and maintain high principles and standards of practice and ethics in relation to orthoptics and related sciences.
- 7 To consider all questions affecting the interests of the Association and to promote or oppose any legislative or other measures affecting such matters or concerned with orthoptics.
- 8 Ensure good governance and financial sustainability.

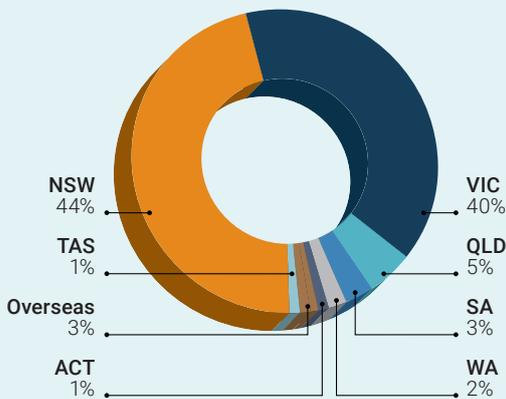
MEMBERSHIP

As of 30th June 2019, Orthoptics Australia had more than 570 active members who reside across Australia and overseas including New Zealand, United Kingdom, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

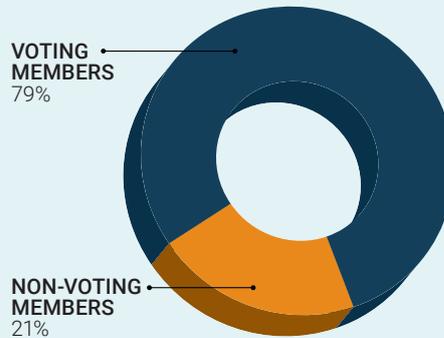
Top 3 reasons why Orthoptists join Orthoptics Australia*

- 1 Professional Development
- 2 Reduced Registration Fee – Annual Conference
- 3 Member-only Workshops/CPD

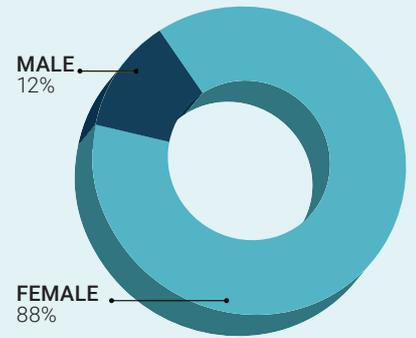
Membership Snapshot#



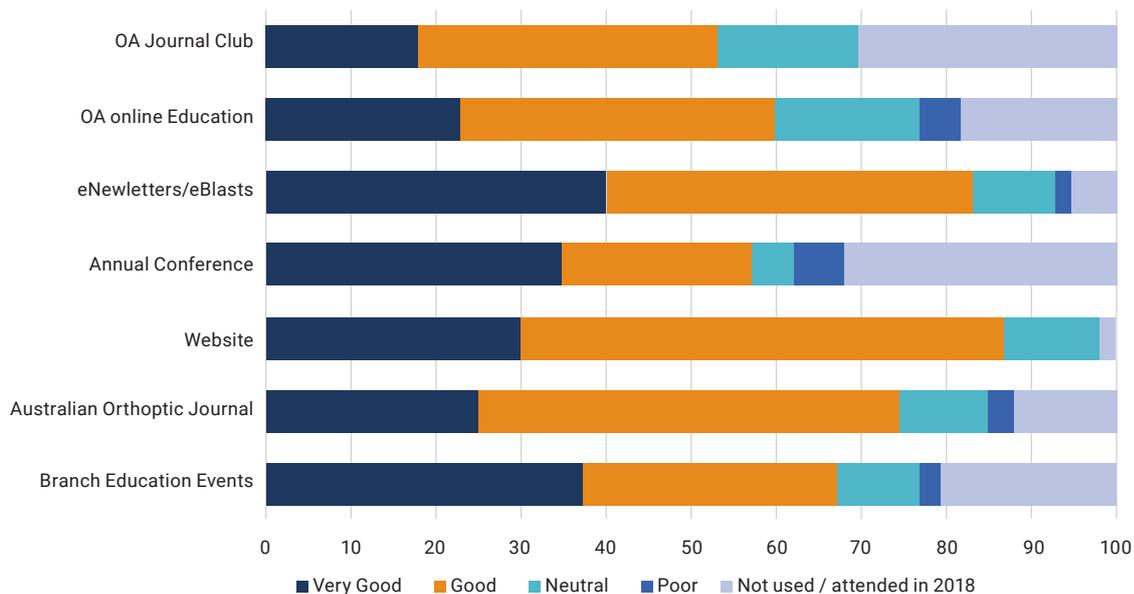
Membership Type#



Gender#



Most Popular Member Benefits*



#These results are based on the Orthoptics Australia June 2019 Member Report.

*These results are based on the 2017-2018 Orthoptics Australia Member Satisfaction Survey.

COUNCIL

Council continues to meet on a regular basis both by teleconference and face to face meetings. Sincere thanks to all Councillors who work diligently on behalf of members and bring their own valuable insights and wisdom to Council meetings.



Marion Rivers
President

Orthoptics Australia's current Council:



Jane Schuller
President Elect (VIC)



Lindley Leonard
Secretary (NSW)



Karen Mill
Treasurer (VIC)



MaryAnne Gregory
Councillor (ACT)



Amanda French
Councillor (NSW)



Neryla Jolly
Councillor (NSW)



Keren Edwards
Councillor (QLD)



Jennifer Roberts
Councillor (QLD)



Faren Willett
Councillor (QLD)



Lachlan Knight
Councillor (SA)



Shandell Wishart
Councillor (SA)



Julie Barbour
Councillor (TAS)

Public Officer



Allannah Crameri
Councillor (VIC)



Holly Brown
Councillor (WA)



Gareth Lingham
Councillor (WA)



Jody Leone

AUSTRALIAN ORTHOPTIC JOURNAL



Meri Vukicevic



Linda Santamaria

Co-Editors-In-Chief

Meri Vukicevic and Linda Santamaria

Editorial Board

Jill Carlton	Connie Koklanis
Nathan Clunas	Linda Malesic
Elaine Cornell	Karen McMain
Catherine Devereux	Vincent Nguyen
Kerry Fitzmaurice	Gill Roper-Hall
Mara Giribaldi	Kathryn Thompson
Julie Green	Suzane Vassallo
Neryla Jolly	

For the first time in its 46-year history, Volume 50 (2018) of the Australian Orthoptic Journal was published exclusively online in *Open Access* format. This means that all articles peer-reviewed and accepted by the Australian Orthoptic Journal are published upon acceptance and free to readers.

Volume 50 contained six original articles and several selected abstracts from the 75th Annual Orthoptics Australia Scientific Conference.

Volume 51 (2019) has not yet been completed but accepted articles are made available via the website as soon as they are published.

From 2019, the Australian Orthoptic Journal will have a new look website, with improved branding and functionality to make browsing issues and searching for papers easier for users.

The editors wish to thank OneToOne printing for their assistance with preparation of manuscripts and a special mention to the Editorial Board: Jill Carlton, Nathan Clunas, Elaine Cornell, Catherine Devereux, Kerry Fitzmaurice, Mara Giribaldi, Julie Green, Neryla Jolly, Connie Koklanis, Linda Malesic, Karen McMain, Vincent Nguyen, Gill Roper-Hall, Kathryn Thompson and Suzane Vassallo.

ORTHOPTICS AUSTRALIA 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Natalie Ainscough



Shandell Wishart



75th ORTHOPTICS AUSTRALIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

19-21 November 2018

Adelaide Convention Centre

Conference Committee (2018)

Co-Convenors

Natalie Ainscough and Shandell Wishart

Scientific Program Committee Chair

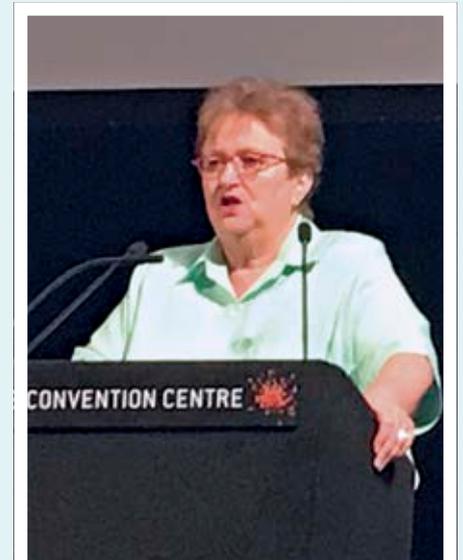
Sue Silveira

Scientific Program Committee

Louise Brennan and Lachlan Knight

The Orthoptics Australia 75th Annual Conference was held in November 2018 at the Adelaide Convention Centre. The conference attracted 241 pure delegates and 17 sponsors and exhibitors.

The program was incredibly well received, as were the various social functions.





AWARDS

University of Technology Sydney Awards

Orthoptics Australia Prize

Presented at the UTS Orthoptics Scholarship and Prize night. Awarded to the student with the highest overall mark in Professional Practice Subjects in their final year of the Orthoptics course.

2018 recipient: Stephanie Retsas

Other prizes presented at the University of Technology Sydney Prize night were:

Frank Martin Scholarship

Awarded to the student with the highest-grade point average (GPA) based on the most recently completed tertiary qualification. This scholarship is awarded to the recipient in their first year of study.

2019 recipient: Xanthe Harrison

George Street Eye Centre Scholarship

Awarded to the student with the highest-grade point average (GPA) from a rural, regional or interstate area. The scholarship is awarded to the recipient in their first year of study.

2019 recipient: Hayley Beale

Lance/Jolly Prize

Awarded annually to the student with the highest average mark in the orthoptic course in their final year of study.

2018 recipient: Georgia Rossettin

La Trobe University Awards

Orthoptics Australia supports the following awards:

J Ringland Anderson Prize

Awarded to the student who gains the highest marks for the orthoptic components during the final two years of their qualifying program.

2018 recipient: Elizabeth Leonard

Leonie Collins Prize

Awarded to the most outstanding final year student presentation at the La Trobe University Annual Orthoptic Clinical Education Conference

2018 recipient: Minh Ong

Nicky Strang Prize

Awarded to the most outstanding final year student poster presented at the La Trobe University Annual Orthoptic Clinical Education Conference.

2018 recipient: Jon Luu

Other Awards

Zoran Georgievski Medal

The Zoran Georgievski Medal commemorates the life, professional career and outstanding commitment to the profession of orthoptics by Zoran Georgievski (1992-2011). The Zoran Georgievski Medal is an award which recognises a member of Orthoptics Australia for their substantial contribution to furthering the profession of orthoptics.

2018 recipient: Catherine Mancuso

Patricia Lance Lecture

The Patricia Lance Lecture is presented by a person 'eminent in the field of vision'. The Patricia Lance Lecture was inaugurated in 1988, following a decision by the Council of Orthoptics Australia in the previous year. The lecture is presented at the Orthoptics Australia Annual Scientific Conference by invitation by the Council of Orthoptics Australia.

2018 recipient: Marion Rivers

Paediatric Orthoptic Award

The Paediatric Orthoptic Award was established to commemorate the work and commitment to paediatric orthoptics of three orthoptists from Western Australia: Bev Balfour; Megan Lewis; and Alison Terrill. It is awarded to the best paediatric paper presented at the Orthoptic Australia Annual Conference.

2018 recipient: Renee Hernandez

Emmie Russell Memorial Prize

The Emmie Russell Memorial Prize was initiated by Emmie Russell, one of Australia's first and most highly regarded orthoptists. In order to encourage excellence in research among younger orthoptists, Emmie Russell initiated the prize in 1975. The award is presented to a graduate from one of the recognised Australian training schools for the best presentation at the Orthoptics Australia Annual Scientific Conference. The presentation is judged on its value to the profession, scientific content and integrity, clarity and presentation.

2018 recipient: Premkumar Gunasekaran

OA Research Grant

2018 shared recipients: UTS PhD students Prem Gunasekaran and Sahar Shariflou

ORIA Star at RANZCO

2018 recipient: Sahar Shariflou

Awarded for her Poster titled 'Spontaneous venous pulsations assessed using a novel tablet-based ophthalmoscope are associated with retinal ganglion cell count in glaucoma and glaucoma suspects'.

ARVO 2019 Poster

2019 recipient: Sahar Shariflou

This poster was selected as a 'Hot Topic' by convenors – Poster titled 'Amplitude of spontaneous venous pulsations are associated with retinal ganglion cell count estimates in glaucoma'.

COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

Orthoptics Australia would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank all Committee and Representative volunteers



Karen Mill



Marion Rivers

Finance Committee

Chair: Karen Mill

Committee: Lindley Leonard, Gareth Lingham, Marion Rivers and Jane Schuller

The 2018-2019 audited reports prepared by Ashfords Audit and Assurance of Dingley Victoria reported a comfortable surplus, reversing the recent trend of either a very modest surplus or indeed a deficit. Particularly pleasing to note is that this surplus was achieved despite expenditure in relation to the governance and constitution review.

A key contributor to the positive financial outcome, was the highly successful conference held in Adelaide. The Committee would like to acknowledge the work of all involved in delivering an attractive education program which ensured good attendance and securing strong support from industry. CPD events were held in all states, with the flagship events for both New South Wales and Victoria being well supported by local orthoptists and industry. Enormous thanks go to volunteers in all states for their diligence.

Additionally, improved communication and new benefits available to our members ensured strong retention of existing members and a large cohort of new members throughout the year, resulting in membership subscription income increasing by over 17%.

Strong financial management continues to be guided by a rolling 3-year budget which supports forward planning.

Careful management of expenses also contributed to the positive financial outcome, enabling the Orthoptics Australia Council to approve the appointment of our Executive Officer, Wendy Weston, who commenced in this 3-day per week role in March 2019. This role has already made a difference across the organisation and is seen as pivotal to the future growth, development and diversification of the Association.

The Finance Committee would like to thank Elaine Trevaskis at Association Professionals for her support and guidance.

Governance Committee

Chair: Marion Rivers

Committee: Amanda French, Neryla Jolly, Karen Mill and Jane Schuller

2018-2019 has been a very hectic yet rewarding year for the Orthoptics Australia Governance Committee with extensive focus placed on major projects such as the:

- Review, consideration and adoption of a new governance model;
- Re-evaluating and proposed updating of the Constitution; and
- preparation of the associated Bylaws.

Completion of these projects would not have been possible without extensive consultation with Association members, who provided valuable and constructive feedback to the Constitution discussion papers and the associated Bylaws

The Governance Committee look forward to the presentation of the proposed Orthoptics Australia Constitution and Bylaws to members at the upcoming AGM in November 2019.

COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES CONT'D



Jane Schuller



Gareth Lingham

Membership Committee

Chair: Jane Schuller

Committee: Navdeep Kaur, Louise Maher, Han Nguyen and Shanelle Sorbello

Jane Schuller attended the Associations Forum Annual Conference in Canberra 14 -16 July. Over 500 delegates attended representing professional, industry and other member Associations. The Associations represented ranged in size similar to Orthoptics Australia up to those with over 30,000 members. Simultaneous streams ran covering communications, membership retention and growth, recruiting, events and other topics on governance and advocacy. Several innovative ideas were presented from which we can learn from and implement.

The Committee worked with Association Professionals and Council to establish benchmarks and set KPI's around membership growth and retention and explored further ways that we can use data within the Membes platform.

In September the Committee undertook the annual membership survey. The information gathered from member feedback enabled us to provide input to Council with respect to the current membership value proposition including the development of new member benefits or repositioning existing benefits.

Continuing Education Committee

Chair: Gareth Lingham

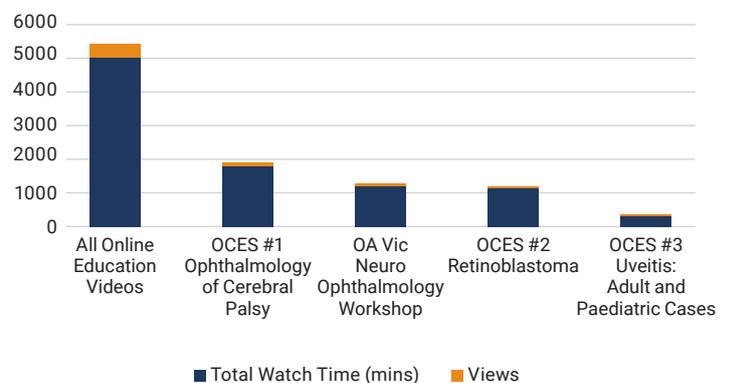
Committee: Denise Bartolo, Allannah Crameri, Amanda French and Marion Rivers

The Continuing Education Committee are the newest committee to form with the inaugural meeting occurring in March 2019.

Council has given the Committee some exciting and challenging tasks to complete in 2020. These include development and implementation of an Orthoptics Australia national upskill workshop that will visit multiple major cities across Australia and provide a comprehensive upskill course in a particular area. The provision of satellite continuing education opportunities around the annual Orthoptics Australia Conference is another task.

It is also important to report that Orthoptics Australia's online educational offering had a total watch time of more than 83 hours during the 2018-2019 period. With over 500 views (refer table below).

OA online Education Recordings 2018–2019





Breanna Ban

Continuing Education Committee Cont'd

The Committee has been instrumental in initialising two important projects:

1. Purchase of the Intuto Learning Management System (LMS) scheduled to launch at the Orthoptics Australia Annual Conference in November 2019; and the
2. Orthoptics Australia 2020 Professional Development Member Survey

It is envisaged that survey responses will constitute the basis of topics and types of professional development opportunities made available to Orthoptics Australia members in 2020 and beyond. While the availability of an Orthoptics Australia website compatible LMS, will provide a user-friendly online platform for Orthoptics Australia members to access online continuing education material and track completed activities and acquired CPD points.



Public Relations Committee

Chair: Breanna Ban

Committee: Premkumar Gunasekaran and Vivan Nguyen

The Public Relations Committee successfully promoted Orthoptics Awareness Week (OAW), from 4th- 8th March 2019 with the theme 'More than meets the eye'. The aim was to increase awareness of the Orthoptic profession in the public and other health profession domains. This year via our social media platforms, the Committee chose to feature an Orthoptist working in a different subspecialty, for each day of OAW. These subspecialties included low vision, ophthalmic, paediatric, refractive laser and research. This highlighted that the role of an Orthoptist can be diverse, depending on the workplace setting and ultimately that there is 'more to being an Orthoptist than meets the eye'.



Orthoptics Awareness Week | 4th - 8th March 2019

World Orthoptic Day was held on 3rd of June 2019. The media release included statistics on the current number of Orthoptists working across Australia and highlighted the need to encourage more Orthoptist's to work in rural and remote areas. This release was closely followed by an article in Insight magazine July edition, on 'Giving back in Papua New Guinea'. This reinforced the importance of Orthoptists considering a voluntary role to aid in access to eye health care in remote communities.



From June 2019 OA has contributed to a monthly column in Insight magazine. Topics have ranged from the Orthoptists role in assessing and communicating visual driving standards, Orthoptic voluntary work in Tanzania and leadership development for women in STEM.

COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES CONT'D



Sue Silveira

Awards Committee

Chair: Sue Silveira

Committee: Julia Kelly and Linda Santamaria

Orthoptics Australia is pleased to present awards and prizes to support both new graduates emerging practitioners and members with a series of awards and prizes.

International Orthoptic Association Representative

Representative: Sue Silveira

Financial members of Orthoptics Australia are entitled to membership of the International Orthoptic Association, a worldwide organisation of some 23 countries. Members are encouraged to visit the International Orthoptic Association website where the details of international opportunities, conferences and programs are advertised.

Enquiries are received frequently from overseas orthoptists regarding employment opportunities in Australia and the governmental requirements. Advice is offered in each case.

The invitation to participate in the International Orthoptic Association Committee of Management meeting held in Tunis, Tunisia, in June 2019 was declined due to high level warnings from DFAT. Instead Australia participated in the meeting via videoconferencing.

Orthoptics Australia is delighted to announce that we have been successful in securing the rights to host the June 2024 IOA conference in Brisbane.



Neryla Jolly

Council Advisory Committee

Chair: Neryla Jolly

Committee: Mara Giribaldi, Julia Kelly and Sue Silveira

A journal article that presents the findings of the most recent Orthoptics Australia workforce survey has been completed and is currently being considered by the Australian Orthoptic Journal for publication. Thank you to all Orthoptics Australia members who kindly completed the online survey that was used to build this paper. The paper forms an essential data resource that showcases the profession's expertise in the eye care sector, highlights challenges and discusses our future.



Julie Barbour

Australian Orthoptic Board Representative

Representative: Julie Barbour

The Australian Orthoptic Board introduced compulsory CPD in the 2017-2019 registration biennium bringing Orthoptics in line with current standards for health registration bodies, and to comply with the expectations of associated organisations such as Medicare, NDIS and ASAR. Registrants must satisfy the CPD requirements to renew for the 2019-2021 biennium.

As well as numerous pre-approved and self-assessment activities, over 910 CPD activities were submitted for accreditation over the 2017-2019 biennium.

The Australian Orthoptic Board CPD review meeting in October 2018 and associated teleconferences, were attended by Julie Barbour.

Registration numbers increased to 811 registrants in the 2017-2019 biennium.



Liane Wilcox

Workplace Relations and Conditions Representative

Representative: Liane Wilcox

2018-2019 has been another busy year for the Orthoptics Australia Workplace Relations and Conditions Representative receiving and replying to member queries regarding current private orthoptic award conditions and rates of pay. Common questions relate to the appropriate level of pay for a person's qualifications and years of experience as well as internal conflicts that occur within the workplace.

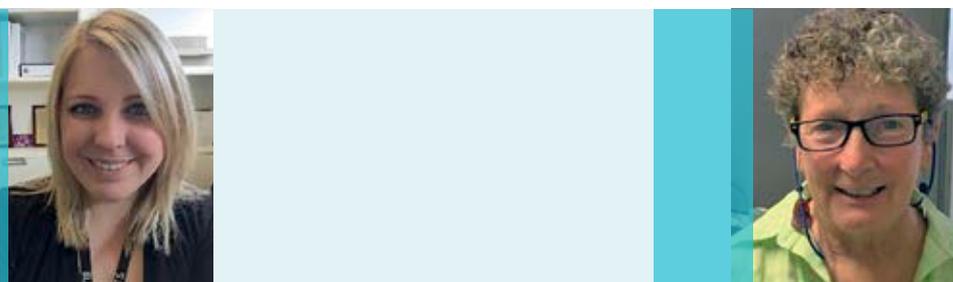
More complex questions are referred to the Fairwork Ombudsman.

STATE BRANCHES AND COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Orthoptics Australia has five affiliate state groups, Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and two state Branches; Victoria and New South Wales who continue to be the lifeblood of the Association. Made up of local members, the committees support the objectives of Orthoptics Australia, plan and deliver education and networking events and are the local voice of the Association.



Amanda French



MaryAnne Gregory

New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory

NSW Chair: Amanda French

Committee: Felicia Adinanto (Secretary), Sonia Biondi (Rural), Denise Go, Prem Gunasekaran, Neryla Jolly, Lindley Leonard (Finance Officer), Wendy Liang, Kathryn Rose (UTS), Catherine Severino, Sahar Shariflou, Irina Sim (Continuing Education) and Shanelle Sorbello

ACT Representative: MaryAnne Gregory

Over the past year, the NSW Branch Committee has been working hard to contribute feedback on the proposed Orthoptics Australia constitution changes, participate in a number of activities and federal Orthoptics Australia Committees and to offer high quality continuing professional development and networking opportunities to members.

The Branch had several retiring committee members this year, who have made an outstanding contribution to the NSW Branch Committee and the Association more broadly. We would like to thank Gayani Gunasekara, Nina Mustafic and Michelle Courtney-Harris for their support of the profession and the Association over many years.

Two very successful events were organised by the NSW Branch in 2019. The first, in April, was the annual continuing education weekend held at the Crowne Plaza, Hawkesbury Valley. 63 delegates enjoyed a varied program with presentations of the latest research in myopia, learning

difficulties and a proposed national vision screening program, among others. A wonderful time was had at the dinner, complete with a magician and fantastic opportunities to network with colleagues!

In August, the NSW Branch Committee in collaboration with UTS hosted a symposium with a focus on orthoptics in neurological conditions. This marked the largest NSW Branch event to date, with tickets selling-out at 105 delegates. The NSW Branch secured two high-profile visiting speakers from the UK; Professor Fiona Rowe from the University of Liverpool and Carmel Noonan a paediatric and neuro-ophthalmologist who is head of the ophthalmology department at Aintree University Hospital. This was in addition to a fantastic program of speakers including; neurologists Dr Kate Ahmad and Dr Rowena Mobbs, neuro-ophthalmologist Associate Prof Clare Fraser and speech pathologist Associate Prof Emma Power who gave us a novel interdisciplinary perspective on our care of patients. Several orthoptic PhD students from UTS also presented their research; Shanelle Sorbello, Premkumar Gunasekaran and Michelle Courtney-Harris. And finally, Tharini Ganess and Kirsty Somerville-McAlester presented some fascinating neurological patient cases from the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH) and Sydney Eye Hospital (SEH), respectively.

Events:

- Continuing Education Day – August 2018
- Continuing Education Weekend – April 2019
- OA and UTS present: A Focus on Orthoptics in Neurology Symposium – August 2019



Keren Edwards



Natalie Ainscough



Shandell Wishart



Julie Barbour

Queensland

Representatives: Keren Edwards, Jenny Roberts and Faran Willett

Orthoptics Australia Queensland representatives held two education days at the QCH attended by orthoptists and nurses.

Most Queensland public hospitals are taking students. A great two-way learning experience.

The Allied Health Professions Office of Queensland (AHPOQ) continues to represent a nine thousand (FTE) workforce. Liza-Jane McBride has replaced Julie Hulcombe as the chief allied health officer. Julie led a taskforce, which over the last 10 years through extensive consultation throughout Queensland, was able to implement strategies to ensure the allied health workforce could meet the needs of the current and future health service.

Events:

- Orthoptic Education Day – August 2018 and July 2019
- Branch Education Day – February 2019

South Australia

Representatives: Natalie Ainscough and Shandell Wishart

South Australia representatives spent a hectic year focusing their energies on ensuring the success of the 2018 Orthoptics Australia Annual Conference.

South Australia also hosted a workshop on the topic of Papilloedema.

Tasmania

Representative: Julie Barbour

There were seven Orthoptists working in Tasmania during the past year.

Members continue to ensure ongoing liaison with the Child Health/School Health Services by way of lectures and clinical tutoring to Nursing staff.

Services to the Paediatric Low Vision clinics are also a service provided in the North, North West and South of the state.

Orthoptic Outreach clinics are held on Flinders Island, NW Coast and St Helens throughout the year through the Tazreach program.

A close alliance has been formed between Orthoptics in Tasmania and these services.

STATE BRANCHES AND COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES CONT'D



Jane Schuller

Victoria

Chair: Jane Schuller

Committee: Breanna Ban (Secretary), Donna Corcoran (Finance Officer), Allanah Crameri, Paula Freijah, Rosamond Gilden, Navdeep Kaur, Connie Koklanis, Stephanie Marshall, Karen Mill, Han Nguyen, Vivan Nguyen, Benny Phanthakesone and Danielle Thorburn

As a result of valuable feedback from the membership survey in 2018, the branch focussed our efforts on improving access to CPD. In particular, some of the challenges facing our regional members were addressed. We prioritised recording all Victorian CPD events, improving access for members through online education on the Orthoptics Australia website. The highlight of our calendar was the July Scientific Meeting with a full day

of educational content for 150 attendees, speakers and sponsors. The event continues to provide valuable networking opportunities for colleagues and sponsors. An additional JSM regional registration grant in 2018 meant two regional orthoptists were supported to attend the meeting. Significant work was done to streamline the organisation, delivery and sponsorship of the 2019 Orthoptic Continuing Education Seminar series in partnership with the RVEEH, RCH and La Trobe University. We held two member-only events focused on OCT and Neuro-ophthalmology.

Orthoptics Australia Victorian Branch continues to support our orthoptic community to connect and network through a range of initiatives including the closed Facebook group for Victorian regional orthoptists, the Orthoptics Australia members-only forum in Slack and at the recent networking event about the guide dog journey led by Guide Dogs Victoria.

Events:

- July Scientific Meeting – July 2018
- Continuing Education Day – September 2018
- Three Orthoptic Continuing Education Seminars – Feb, April and June 2018
- Upskill Workshop – March 2019
- Networking Event: Guide Dog Puppy Experience – June 2019





Holly Brown



Gareth Lingham

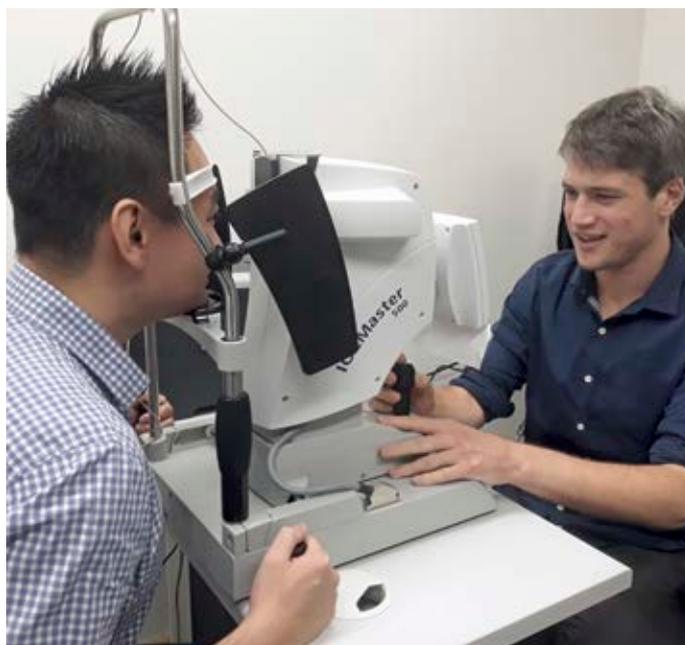
Western Australia

Representatives: Holly Brown and Gareth Lingham

The WA orthoptics group met several times in the past year for continuing education talks and a meeting to discuss council matters. We had our first continuing education morning in November 2018, with topics presented by ophthalmologists and orthoptists. This was a successful event which was well attended and will be held again in 2019.

Events:

- Branch CPD Talk – September 2018
- Branch CPD Morning – November 2018 and October 2019
- Continuing Education Evening Meeting – May and July 2019



AFFILIATIONS

Orthoptics Australia is proud of its affiliations with organisations and groups such as:



INDUSTRY PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

Orthoptics Australia is built around partnerships between members, industry and other key stakeholders working together, striving for excellence in eye health care.

Valued partnerships help us to provide high quality services to Orthoptics Australia members, including local, national and online education, publications, and our flagship event, the Orthoptics Australia Annual Conference.

Orthoptics Australia would like to thank all 2018-2019 industry partners and sponsors, without whom, Orthoptics Australia would not be able to deliver the high-quality education that the Association is renowned for.





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