



**Minutes of Keratoconus Australia Inc Annual General Meeting held
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 30th November, 2006
6:00pm, Victorian College of Optometry**

Meeting opened at 6:05pm

Attendance

Members present

Larry Kornhauser	President
Belinda Cerritelli	Secretary
Liz Bray	Treasurer
Marisa Cerritelli	Committee Member
Martin Van Geleuken	Member
Jenny O'Connor	Member
Gary Taylor	Member

Welcome

The president took the chair and welcomed everyone present.

Apologies and Proxies

The secretary reported that 10 apologies and 4 postal or proxy votes were received.

Business

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 3 December 2005

The confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM:
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 3 December 2005 had been made available for members to read on the internet.

It was resolved:

That minutes from the Annual General Meeting held 3 December 2005 be adopted.

Motion: Liz Bray
Second: Marisa Cerritelli
Carried

2. Reports

Office bearer reports from the Committee of 2005

a) President's report

Larry Kornhauser reported to the meeting:

- ♦ Support provided to people with keratoconus and their family remains Keratoconus Australia's (KA) principal activity with questions reaching around 200. 50 people contacted KA in April/May 2006 with specific questions about

the corneal collagen cross linking trial at the Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital

- ◆ There is growing interest from people with keratoconus in new surgical procedures to treat keratoconus. KA continues to monitor new treatments and will aim to provide regular updates
- ◆ KA has had involvement with 2 research projects:
 1. Intergenerational Genetics Study which aims to better understand the genetic component of keratoconus by identifying at least 3 generations of affected family members. Update by Dr Tim Steele due in early 2007.
 2. Corneal Collagen Cross Linking (C3-R) Study – Australian trial of the new German-developed C3-R treatment which stiffens the corneal stroma and offers hope of slowing or halting the progression of keratoconus. KA donated \$5,000 to the study, which is being used to purchase equipment required to carry out the procedure and if proven safe and effective, the equipment will be used for future treatment. KA organised a public meeting on May 30 addressed by the trial organisers Dr Grant Snibson and Dr Christine Wittig. The meeting was attended by 110 members/family.
- ◆ KA continues to grow recognition for its work in the eye carer community, having been contacted by large keratoconus specialist optometrists in SA and QLD; KA has also become supporting member of Vision 2020 which have resulted in discussions with the Optometrists' Association of Victoria.
- ◆ As there appears to be a link between high cost/ poor warranty conditions for contact lenses for keratoconus contact lenses, and the shortage of optometrists to fit these lenses, KA has been working on both fronts to try and improve the situation.
- ◆ KA has been involved with Melbourne optometrist Richard Vojlay and the University of Melbourne to assist with special training clinics and a lecture for final year optometry students
- ◆ A database has been developed to facilitate entry of information obtained from members about type of visual correction; costs incurred and optometry services
- ◆ Visits to the website have increased from 50/week last year to around 60 in 2005/6. Revisits stand at about 25%
- ◆ Membership continues to grow in 2005/6 and stood at 827 at June 30, 2006. The bulk of the members are located in Victoria, followed by NSW, then QLD, then SA and WA.
- ◆ KA organised 3 information seminars. In October 2005, a first seminar was held in NSW; followed by 2 Melbourne seminars
- ◆ Committee members remain on a volunteer basis while trying to maintain full-time jobs and other activities.

Larry concluded by thanking the Committee for their great effort during the year. He extended a special thank you to all the ophthalmologists and optometrists who help in our support and advocacy work.

Motion: Marisa Cerritelli
Second: Martin Van Geleuken
Carried

b) Treasurer's report

The report for the financial year 2004/5 by Treasurer Liz Bray had been available for members to read on the internet and is attached to the minutes.

It was noted that income for the 2005/6 financial year was \$14,718 as compared to last year of \$13,806. Donations received totalled \$11,706 plus a further \$1,181 from seminars. The remaining monies were from the sale of videos/dvds and bank interest. Expenses include website maintenance; video/dvd production; phone costs in maintaining KA helpline; administration costs. Total expenses for 2005/6 were \$5,772.

Liz thanked KA kind supporters for the generous donations, which help to keep KA working to maintain its aims. Total funds held by Keratoconus Australia at the end of June 2006 were \$30,923.

It was resolved

That the Treasurer's report for the Financial Year 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 be received.

Motion: Larry Kornhauser

Second: Gary Towers

Carried

C) Secretary's report

Belinda Cerritelli gave an overview of the highlights for Keratoconus Australia in the year 2005/6:

- ◆ Phone support continues to be an important feature of The Association's work. Requests for information are mainly for details of eye-carers experienced in fitting contact lenses for keratoconus. Numerous requests were for information about the new trial, collagen cross linking treatment (C3-R)
- ◆ A progress report on the c3-r trial was presented on behalf of Dr Christine Wittig, one of the lead researchers (see attached)
- ◆ In March 2006, KA became a supporting member of Vision 2020, an umbrella group for eye health-related organisations in Australia. Vision 2020's aim is to prevent avoidable blindness and to improve vision care throughout Australia. It is part of a national partnership of over 40 Australian based organisations involved in local and global eye care service delivery, health promotion, education and development, low vision support, vision rehabilitation, eye research, professional assistance and community support. This partnership has been, and will continue to be, fundamental in assisting Keratoconus Australia in awareness raising, advocacy efforts and provides a direct link to other vision organisations.
- ◆ KA secretary and committee member, Marisa Cerritelli, attended Vision 2020's second Member Forum. The focus of the Forum was on the implementation of the National Framework for Action aimed to promote eye health and prevention of avoidable blindness.

- ◆ The forum included a workshop on how to create effective advocacy campaigns. This is particularly relevant to Keratoconus Australia with regards to pushing for better rebates on contact lenses.
- ◆ Discussion was held around the National Framework for Action to promote eye health and prevention of avoidable blindness. This framework is a document to help coordinate action by governments, health professionals, non-government organisations, industry and individuals to work in partnership to improve eye care. It was a most insightful session where KA advocacy-novices we were given the opportunity to work and interact with experts in eye-care.
- ◆ It proved an invaluable networking occasion to meet people from other vision organisations including, Seeing Eye Dogs Australia, Retina Australia, Vision Australia, Optometrists Association Australia, Centre for Eye Research Australia and the Institute for Eye Research. This Forum opened up avenues for Keratoconus Australia to conduct information seminars in SA (yet to be held) and has enabled the Association to better understand how other organisations function and will assist KA to expand its operations.
- ◆ Joe Shakman, Executive Officer of the Optometrists' Association of Australia was present at this forum. This lead to a preliminary meeting to discuss optometrists' skills in fitting specialised contact lens for keratoconus and the associated costs (to be followed up).
- ◆ Most recently, Vision 2020 have forwarded information compiled by KA on contact lens subsidy to a contact at Department of Health in Canberra (to be followed up).

Other important relationships formed in 2005/6 include:

1. Dr Colin Clements, optometrist who has agreed to provide monthly updates on the latest research in keratoconus.
2. Gill Cochran, PhD research student, who is developing a model for support services for children with low vision. Gill informed KA of the Statewide Vision Resource Centre who provide advice & equipment to schools. Useful reference for KA to refer members to.
3. Charity Jenkins, database developer for the keratoconus survey data entry and analyses. This database will be instrumental in securing higher rebates and work to reduce costs for contact lenses as no other data of this kind exist in Australia.

Official Committee Meetings were held on (other meetings in between)

15 th August 2005	1 st March 2006
12 th September 2005	11 th March 2006
17 th October 2005	5 th April 2006
3 rd December 2005	20 th May 2006

Belinda expressed her appreciation to the Committee of Management.

Motion: Liz Bray
 Second: Jenny O'Connor
 Carried

3. Motions of notice

Nomination for Office and Ordinary Committee Members

As only one nomination for each office bearer position was received by 24 November 2006, the committee members were elected unopposed.

The Committee of Management for Keratoconus Australia Inc 2006 was declared:

Office bearers

Secretary – Belinda Cerritelli

Treasurer – Elizabeth Bray

President – Larry Kornhauser

No nomination was received for vice president and that position remains vacant.

Ordinary Committee members

Marisa Cerritelli

Laura Towers

Meeting Close

Meeting closed at 7:15pm

Attachments:

President's report 2005/6

Treasurer's report 2005/6

Secretary's report 2005/6

Progress report of C3-r trial, provided by Dr Christine Wittig