



**Minutes of Keratoconus Australia Inc Annual General Meeting held
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 21 November 2007, 6:30pm
Victorian College of Optometry**

Meeting opened at 6:45pm

Attendance

Members present

Larry Kornhauser	President
Belinda Cerritelli	Secretary
Marisa Cerritelli	Committee Member
Ross Ollquist	Member
Janice Roberts	Member
Dwayne Bicknell	Member
Shirley McEvoy	Member
Adam Burrage	Member
John Bevan	Member
Beverly Chan	Member

Others present

Caroline Coner	Visitor
Tracey Kelly	Supporter
Terry McEvoy	Supporter
Naomi Hayler	Supporter

Welcome

The president took the chair and welcomed everyone present.

Apologies and Proxies

The secretary reported that no apologies and no postal or proxy votes were received.

Business

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 30 November 2006

The confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM:
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 30 November 2006 had been made available for members to read on the internet.

It was resolved:

That minutes from the Annual General Meeting held 30 November 2006 be adopted.

Motion:	Marisa Cerritelli
Second:	Shirley McEvoy
Carried	

2. Reports

Office bearer reports from the Committee of 2006

a) President's report

Larry Kornhauser reported to the meeting:

1. SUPPORT

- Principal function of KA remains providing support to people with keratoconus & their families
- Email is primary form of contact, enabled KA to assist people across Australia overseas.
- The Association has strict guidelines governing the way it handles requests for support
- In 2006-07, KA handled 187 requests for support (200 in 2005-06, 190 in 2004-05).
- Emerging evidence that corneal collagen crosslinking could provide a means for halting the progression of keratoconus.

2. RESEARCH

- KA supported two important research projects in the past 18 months: Keratoconus Inheritance Study & Clinical trial of the corneal collagen crosslinking treatment

3. ACTION ON CONTACT LENS REBATES

- Spectacles & contact lenses still remain primary means for correcting vision loss resulting from keratoconus
- KA identified two key deficiencies in that respect: 1) cost of specialized contact lenses & poor warranty conditions offered on these lenses compared to contact lenses for other conditions, 2) shortage of experienced contact lens fitters
- In March 2007, KA secretary, attended a Vision 2020 parliamentary group meeting addressed by Federal Health Minister, Tony Abbott.
- KA collaborated with Vision 2020 to produce a four-page submission to Minister Abbott outlining what we considered to be the key issues (sent May 2007)
- Reply received in early July from the Medical Benefits Division of the Department of Health & Ageing was disappointing
- KA now considering putting more pressure on the private health funds to raise rebates on contact lenses for keratoconus while seeking a long term solution supported by the medical associations working in this field

4. OPTOMETRIST TRAINING

- Optometrist Richard Vojlay & Department of Optometry & Vision Sciences (UniMelb), organized clinics for final year optometry students to teach more about keratoconus & how to best fit contact lenses
- 4 clinics held in August 2007, KA organized for volunteers with keratoconus to attend
- Lecture on practical aspects of treating keratoconus patients was held in October 2007

5. DATABASE

- Most data entered from health surveys that data to further support our case for higher benefits for contact lenses



K E R A T O C O N U S AUSTRALIA

6. WEBSITE

- Remains primary contact point for most people seeking assistance
- Shown significant rise in hits over the past year: from 60 a week over recent years to almost a 100 per week in 2006-07.

7. MEMBERSHIP

- On June 30, 2007 the Association had a total of 1016 members registered or an increase of 23% above the total one year earlier of 827

8. EVENTS

- KA organized 1 seminar in the 2006-07: update on 2 research projects (May 2007)
- For the first time, seminar available in audio podcast form on our internet site

9. STATE SUPPORT GROUPS

- Lions Club of Sorrells (Hobart) finalized keratoconus brochure in November 2006 & provided KA with print run for distribution.

10. COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Keratoconus patients can access written resources, videos of seminars held since 2001
- KA continues to assist other medical & media groups seeking contact with keratoconus patients.

11. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- In 2006-07, the Association made contact with the Italian keratoconus support & agreed to include links websites
- Continued collaboration with US NKCF which supplies patients booklets at nominal cost
- Met with French keratoconus group in Paris & held wide ranging discussions
- KA provided support to people in Switzerland, the UK, Egypt, Pakistan, Kenya, New Zealand, Mexico, Belgium, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Northern Ireland & Vietnam.

12. THE COMMITTEE

- The 2006-07 year proved difficult for Committee with all members hampered by increasing paid work & family commitments.
- More input from members prepared to work on committee & projects. We feel like we are now battling to keep the Association going.
- President thanked Treasurer, Liz Bray, who resigned at end of 2006-07
- Concluded by thanking KA Committee

b) Treasurer's report

The report for the financial year 2006/7 by President Larry Kornhauser (on behalf of resigned 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 2006/7 financial year was \$18,038 as compared to last year of \$14,718. Donations received totalled \$15,437 plus a further \$256 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 2006/7 were \$9,993.41.

Total funds held by Keratoconus Australia at the end of June 2007 were \$39,259.28.

It was resolved

That the Treasurer's report for the Financial Year 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 be received.

Motion: Ross Ollquist

Second: Jan Roberts

Carried

C) Secretary's report

Belinda Cerritelli summarized some of the key achievement for Keratoconus Australia in the year 2006/7:

1. DATABASE DEVELOPMENT & DATA ENTRY
 - 1000 questionnaires entered & this provides dataset to assist lobbying for better rebates on contact lenses.
 - Enables KA to pursue research opportunities: next stage will be to engage a data analyst
2. RESEARCH UPDATES
 - Dr Colin Clement continues to intermittently provide concise updates: March 2007 - refractive surgery and keratoconus; late 2006 - collagen cross-linking study published in Current Opinion in Ophthalmology; July 2006 - efficacy of contact lens storage solutions against Acanthamoeba strains
3. PARTNERSHIPS: VISION2020 AUSTRALIA
 - Vision2020 Australia held 3rd Member Forum, Canberra, March 2007, opening address by Hon Tony Abbott, Federal Minister for Health
 - Queried Minister Abbott about cost of specialised keratoconus contact lenses
 - Minister Abbott agreed in principle that contact lenses for keratoconus patients should be reclassified as medical devices, encouraged KA to submit proposal so that this issue can be promptly addressed (see attached for further details)
4. PHONE SUPPORT
 - Decreasing in popularity as people opt for email; field approx 3 calls/week
 - People ring for 2 reasons: 1) request information about eye-carers experienced in fitting contact lenses, 2) have recently been diagnosed
 - Same caution exercised handling phone support as with email support
 - Phone calls not being responded to in desired turn around time due to time constraints
 - KA will re-consider phone support service in 2008
5. VOLUNTEERS AND OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE
 - Grateful for generous offers, however, unable to manage volunteer requests, albeit only a few
 - Would not seem appropriate to continue requesting volunteer assistance
 - KA will need to carefully consider volunteer assistance in 2008
6. "THANK YOUS"



K E R A T O C O N U S AUSTRALIA

- Treasurer of 4 years, Liz Bray (resigned)
- Professor Neville McBrien, Heather Johnson & College of Optometry for use of facilities for KA seminars
- KA Committee

3. Motions of notice

Nomination for Office and Ordinary Committee Members

As only one nomination for each office bearer position was received by 16 November 2007, the committee were elected unopposed.

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

Office bearers

Secretary – Belinda Cerritelli

President – Larry Kornhauser

No nomination was received for Vice President & Treasurer and these positions remain vacant.

Ordinary Committee members

Marisa Cerritelli

Meeting Close

Meeting closed at 7:15pm

Attachments:

President's report 2006/7

Treasurer's report 2006/7

Secretary's report 2006/7