



Chairperson's Report

Annual General Meeting – College of Air and Surface Transport Nursing, NZNO

Year ended 2026

It is my pleasure to present the Chairperson's Report for COASTN for the year ended 2026.

The past year has been one of new learning, opportunities and collaboration. I would like to begin by acknowledging the commitment and contribution of everyone who has supported COASTN throughout the year.

Firstly, thank you to Avryl and Kylie from Waikato for their hard work organising this year's symposium and celebration, **30 Years: Past, Present, Future**. I am excited to see the programme and look forward to hearing from some of New Zealand's pioneering flight nurses. It is wonderful to have some of them attending to share their journeys and experiences with the newer generation of flight nurses.

We will also hear an update from the Aeromedical Commissioning Programme (ACP) on the work underway regarding future operating models.

Highlights of the Year

Earlier this year, we bid farewell to Annie Bradley-Ingle. Annie has been the Professional Nurse Advisor for COASTN since 2015 and has taken on the arduous task of keeping the committee focused during our face-to-face and evening Teams meetings.

These meetings are always busy and productive, but they are also an important opportunity for the committee to come together and share our teams' achievements, plans and aspirations. Annie was always there to bring us back on track when those aspirations became more like dreams or idealism outside the realms of reality!

We wish Annie all the very best in her retirement and warmly welcome Vicki Janse, who will support us moving forward. The committee is looking forward to meeting Vicki just prior to the symposium at our face-to-face meeting. She comes to the role with lots of enthusiasm as she explores this new opportunity. Welcome, Vicki.

The committee has made solid progress this year in reviewing the COASTN standards and guidelines. The **Standards of Practice** have been updated in draft format, and work has been

undertaken to ensure they continue to align with the Australasian and national guidelines that are pivotal to flight nursing.

The education framework remains an ongoing piece of work as we review the literature, aviation requirements and aeromedical requirements. Further discussion and correspondence with our Australian colleagues will be necessary to help identify appropriate benchmarking standards.

The Nursing Council of New Zealand has amended the domains of practice and is now utilising a framework of six Pou:

- **Pou 1:** Te Tiriti o Waitangi, ōritetanga and social justice
- **Pou 2:** Kawa whakaruruhau and cultural safety
- **Pou 3:** Pūkengatanga and excellence in nursing practice
- **Pou 4:** Manaakitanga and people-centredness
- **Pou 5:** Whakawhanaungatanga and communication
- **Pou 6:** Rangatiratanga and leadership

We will continue to work with our teams and educator resources to better understand the Pou and align them with the skills and competency framework.

The **Aeromedical Commissioning Programme (ACP)** continues its work to redesign and integrate New Zealand's air ambulance system. COASTN has been well represented within the Clinical Technical Advisory Group, as well as the more defined working groups considering New Zealand's future operating model.

I recently visited Queensland and Victoria as Chair of COASTN and as a subject matter expert alongside the ACP programme lead and another team member. We have a trip to New South Wales coming up.

The primary purpose of these visits has been knowledge gathering, with a focus on reviewing the different referral, dispatch and coordination models used throughout the Australian states. I am sure Jon Gaupset will provide an overview of our findings when he presents at the symposium.

To ensure you remain up to date with the ACP's plans, please register for their mailing list to receive regular updates.

The ACP has recently advertised for expressions of interest for the next tranche of work. This includes refocusing the Clinical Technical Advisory Group and developing three Implementation Working Groups. The requirements for these groups have been widely circulated in the ACP notifications.

There are opportunities for COASTN members to participate in these groups and ensure flight nurses remain pivotal to decision-making around the proposed future model. If you are interested in any of these working groups, please send me an introductory email with a brief synopsis of the knowledge and skills you could contribute to the group.

The ACP has a short timeframe for selecting members, so I will need these expressions of interest by the end of the day **Sunday, 6 September**.

The COASTN committee and our course facilitator, Helen, made the difficult decision earlier this year to postpone the 2026 course while the content and timetable were reviewed. Helen is tirelessly working away on this, with some exciting additions to the timetable.

Due to increased costs and financial constraints, we have decided to remove HUET from the course. The course will now be run from **15–18 February 2027**, so please keep an eye out for registration details coming soon.

Tania continues to publish an outstanding eMag three times a year. It is wonderful to read team updates and, on occasion, case studies from around the motu. Thank you to everyone who contributes regularly. Please feel free to email Tania with your stories at any stage; she will keep them safely tucked away until they are ready for publication.

Avryl has also been working hard behind the scenes with One from NZNO, keeping our website looking great and our social media channels up to date.

Challenges and Opportunities

As with any organisation, the year has also presented its challenges.

The COASTN committee aims to meet face-to-face a minimum of twice each year. Ideally, we would like this to be three times; however, we are financially constrained by our core funding and increasing costs, including flights and accommodation.

We continue to meet virtually via Teams throughout the year, although these meetings are not always as efficient or productive as our face-to-face sessions. We will therefore continue to include three face-to-face meetings in our annual plan as our preferred meeting schedule, subject to available funding.

Financial Position

I would like to acknowledge the work undertaken to maintain a sound financial position and ensure that resources are used responsibly.

Jackie has provided a Treasurer's Report and financial statements, which provide further detail on our financial performance and position for the year. I thank Jackie for her careful oversight and commitment throughout the year.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the coming year, we hope to complete the revision of the COASTN standards and guidelines.

We will continue to build on the progress made during the past year, while identifying opportunities to improve our services, strengthen participation and ensure flight nursing continues to be recognised as a specialised and essential component of aeromedical transport.

I look forward to COASTN's continued involvement with the ACP and to being front and centre in helping to shape the future model of aeromedical transport in New Zealand.

We also have several vacancies on the committee this year. Advertisements are currently out, and we look forward to meeting new applicants and welcoming new members to the committee.

Acknowledgements

Finally, I would like to thank the committee and all COASTN members for their contributions throughout the year.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge and thank my fellow committee members, who have generously given their own time to support COASTN and its members. The work undertaken by the committee would not be possible without this commitment and enthusiasm.

It has been another busy and productive year for COASTN, and I am proud of what we have achieved together.

I look forward to working with you all in the year ahead and to continuing to build on the strong foundations we have established.

Andy Gibbs

Chairperson
COASTN