

**NZNO College of Stomal Therapy Nursing
Chairperson's Report – Maree Warne
Biennial General Meeting – 5 March 2026**

Kia ora colleagues,

It doesn't seem that long ago we were gathered together in Auckland for our 2024 Conference. Time moves quickly, and much has been accomplished since then.

Following the 2024 conference, only Preeti and I remained in our roles on the Committee. I would like to sincerely thank those who stepped up to continue the important work of the College. Over the past two years we have worked hard, supported one another, and shared many laughs along the way.

Committee Changes

Since 2024, we have welcomed several members to the committee:

- **Jillian Woodall** joined as Secretary
- **Fran Horan** as Treasurer
- **Erica Crosby** as Co-Editor of *The Outlet*
- **Cathy Enright** as International Representative with WCET

Jillian left the role a year later as she moved on from stomal therapy nursing. We thank her for her contribution during her time on the committee. **Bronnie Mackenzie** subsequently took over the role of Secretary, and we are grateful for her commitment.

At this meeting, we say goodbye to **Preeti**, who has completed two terms as Co-Editor of *The Outlet* and our resident wordsmith. Sadly, she too has left stomal therapy nursing to pursue a role in ICU. Thank you, Preeti, for your dedication, professionalism, and outstanding contribution to the College and stomal therapy. We wish you every success in your future career.

We also extend our sincere thanks to **Cathy Enright** as she steps down from her role.

Volunteering on a national committee is truly an altruistic commitment. Each member balances significant professional and personal responsibilities, and yet continues to contribute time, energy, and expertise for the advancement of our specialty. Thank you both for your service and effort.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge and thank our current committee members:

- **Fran Horan** for her excellent stewardship as Treasurer. Fran ensures we remain financially responsible — and her authoritative tone grows stronger at every meeting.
- **Erica Crosby** for her work keeping *The Outlet* relevant, engaging, and published on time.

- **Bronnie Mackenzie** for her organisational skills as Secretary and for bringing humour and lightness, even in the busiest of times.

Finally, sincere thanks to **Cathy Leigh, Elisabeth Auchnivole, and Stuart Durston** from NZNO for their ongoing support — keeping us aligned with our annual plans, financial goals, meetings, and managing the practicalities of travel and accommodation. Your support is invaluable.

Key Activities Over the Past Year

While much of the committee's focus has been on organising the 2026 Conference, we have also been involved in several important initiatives:

- Participation in the advisory panel for the Australian College of Nursing Stomal Therapy Course
- Attendance by Preeti and Cathy at the AASTN Conference in Melbourne
- Engagement in meaningful consultation with Pharmac regarding medical device management
- Review and amendment of the Ministry of Health Specialist Community Nursing Services – Stomal Therapy Service Specifications. We have approached the Ministry and are awaiting the opportunity to formally amend the document

Stomal Therapy Week

We proudly celebrated our first ever **Stomal Therapy Week** in collaboration with our Australian colleagues. I would like to extend our gratitude to the Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses for leading this initiative.

Stomal Therapy Week highlights the vital connection between Ostomates and those who support them. It emphasises the importance of education, advocacy, and high-quality stoma care, ensuring Ostomates receive the support they need to live confidently and with dignity.

We plan to celebrate again this year under a new theme and look forward to another week dedicated to our shared passion and purpose.

Awards and Scholarships

The College continues to offer the **Bernadette Hart Award** to members.

- In 2024, the recipient was **Karen Spooner**.
- In 2025, the recipients were **Sharryn Cook and Jade Abbott** — congratulations to you both.

Sharryn will be presenting at the conference, and we look forward to hearing about your work.

We also continue our valued collaboration with **Coloplast and AASTN** in supporting professional nursing education in ostomy care. The **Patricia Blackley Postgraduate Education Scholarship Programme**

continues to honour Patricia Blackley's pioneering work as a clinician, educator, author, and journal editor.

In 2024, **Friezza Pinto** was one of three scholarship recipients. Unfortunately, no New Zealand nurses applied in 2025 — let's change that this year.

Looking Ahead

In keeping with our commitment to collaboration across the Tasman, we have been invited to partner in organising the nursing scientific programme for the **21st Asia Pacific Federation of Coloproctology Congress**, to be held in Sydney in November 2027.

The committee has accepted this invitation and, as a result, has made the decision to forgo a 2028 Conference of our own. This will allow us to focus on contributing meaningfully to this international event while also dedicating time to key stomal therapy issues within New Zealand.

In closing, I would like to thank each of you for your ongoing commitment to our specialty and to the College. The work we do makes a tangible difference in the lives of Ostomates across Aotearoa. I am proud of what we have achieved together and look forward to what lies ahead.

Ngā mihi nui,

Maree Warne

Chairperson

NZNO College of Stomal Therapy Nursing