



## Chairperson's Report

Welcome to the NZNO College of Stomal Therapy Nursing BGM.

The College continues to act as a lead voice for nurses working in the field of Stomal Therapy. It has been an honour and a privilege to be part of the committee over the last four years and a unique opportunity to make a difference to nursing. However, as I reflect on the last two years as Chair of the College I have mixed feelings. I am proud of what the committee has achieved. The development of a Knowledge and Skills Framework that is close to completion. The organisation of the Tripartite conference, that while postponed until February 2022, was well into the planning stages, and the College's continued commitment to producing *The Outlet* three times a year, a publication with an educational focus that is extremely well received. However, COVID has made the work of the committee difficult. Our planned face-to-face meeting during this year have been cancelled making it difficult to progress many of the projects we were working on.

While I leave frustrated that I have not seen to completion some of the projects we as a committee set out to do, I know that I leave them in safe hands. I have been lucky to work with an amazing team of nurses, Kat Neiman (Treasurer), Dawn Birchall and Angela Makwana (Co-Editors of *The Outlet*), Nicky Bates (Secretary) and Rochelle Pryce (Committee Member). I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Julia Anderson our Professional Nursing Adviser. It was a relief to have Julia join the committee after a period without a PNA. I have appreciated Julia's guidance, support, professionalism and knowledge. To all of these lovely women I give my heartfelt thanks for all your hard work and dedication. You have made my job easy.

An important role of the committee is to be aware of current issues that may affect our membership or the patient group that we nurse. In the past year, the committee's liaison with ACC has helped to clarify issues of supply. Issues like this will continue to arise and it is important the committee continue to act as an advocate and provide clinical expertise to government and community bodies.

The College continues to maintain a positive financial position. This is the result of prudent budgeting over many years. The cost of producing *The Outlet* is supported by sponsorship from the trade companies in the form of advertising sales, ensuring that its production is cost neutral. I would like to acknowledge the companies for their ongoing support. Previous successful conferences have managed to make a small profit and the committee look to minimize expenses by meeting where it is cost effective to do so, and when appropriate to hold meeting via zoom.

The Bernadette Hart award is something that is budgeted for each year and the committee has made a commitment to continuing to make the award available. College members can apply for the Bernadette Hart Award to support their education or to attend educational events. We did not receive an application for it last year and I would like to remind members of the availability of the award.

I would also like to thank my fellow nurses working in the field of Stomal Therapy. It has been a difficult year for many of you but you have continued your role as stoma nurse with compassion, dedication and skill. I always feel so lucky to be part of such an amazing group of specialist nurses.

Lastly, I would like to remind you all that the College works on your behalf. Make sure that you keep in touch and get involved when the opportunity arises. I wish the incoming committee all the best for their term in office.

My best wishes to all of the membership,

**Leeann Thom**

Chairperson

College of Stomal Nursing, NZNO