



WOMEN'S HEALTH COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

October 2025



Kia ora e te whānau

Spring has arrived, Ngā mihi o te wā Koanga!

It's wonderful to see the days getting warmer and brighter. Our committee recently gathered in Wellington for a productive two-day hui, focused on planning next year's conference and setting our goals for the coming year.

We were privileged to hear from Paul Goulter, Kerri Nuku, Anne Daniels, and Mairi Lucas. Their kōrero reminded us of our responsibility to the expert spokespeople for wāhine health, patient rights, and to be courageous in our advocacy for nursing and patient safety.

From these discussions, our committee has committed to working on several important areas:

- Wāhine access to health care and waitlists
- Wāhine equity
- Deregulation of the workforce
- Supporting ongoing hysteroscopy training pathways
- Midwife and nurse training in Aotearoa
- Cervical screening and patient safety

As we move into the warmer months, we wish all our members a healthy work/ life balance, tiakina tō oranga, kia taurite te noho- and may you find time for self-care and moments with whānau.

Ngā manaakitanga

Women's Health College Committee

WHC COMMITTEE

Jill Lamb

Chair

Sarah Marshall

Secretary

Jackie Gartell

Treasurer & 2026 Conference
Organiser

Sandy Hamilton

Membership & Newsletter

Committee members

- Nadine Riwai
- Georgina Barber
- Josie Lambert
- Vanessa May - seconded

Juila Anderson – NZNO

Professional Nursing Advisor





🎉 Exciting News! 🎉

We're thrilled to announce that the **next Women's Health College Conference** is happening in **May 2026**, and it's going to be hosted in the vibrant, creative capital of **Wellington!**

💡 ✨ Start brainstorming your **poster and paper ideas** for this is your chance to showcase your work, connect with inspiring minds, and be part of something truly impactful.

🏆 Amazing Prizes Up for Grabs!

- **Best Paper** – \$500
- **Best Poster** – \$500
- **First-Time Presenter Award** – \$250

Whether you're a seasoned researcher or presenting for the first time, there's something for everyone.

More details coming soon. Stay tuned!





EXCITING NEWS FROM BREAST SCREENING

BreastScreen Aotearoa is extending the age for free breast screening, which will start from October 2025 across New Zealand (*except for Nelson and Marlborough, which was the pilot district in October 2024*).

The age extension will begin with women in the two age groups of 70 and 74 to include all women up to the age of 74. The age range extension will be fully in place by the end of 2029.

Phasing in each age group over four years will enable breast screening and cancer treatment services to progressively meet the additional demand.

This is a major milestone for BreastScreen Aotearoa, with the last age extension happening over 20 years ago in 2004 (*extended from 50-64 to 45-69*).

Extending the age of free breast screening will help detect more breast cancer early and improve treatment outcomes for those who are diagnosed. BreastScreen Aotearoa anticipates an additional 22 lives could be saved every year once the age extension is fully implemented.

Please get in touch via breastscreen.aotearoa@tewhatuora.govt.nz if you have any questions or would like further information.

Ngā mihi

Lisa Te Paiho Programme Manager
BreastScreen Aotearoa



AN AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT

A Hawke's Bay Nurse Practitioner has been recognised for her pioneering work in forensic medicine. Lei Johnson has become the inaugural recipient of an Australasian Forensic and Medical Sexual Assault Clinicians Australia (FAMSACA) scholarship.

Lei is the Lead Clinician for the Hawke's Bay Sexual Assault Assessment and Treatment Service and the Non-Fatal Strangulation and Suffocation Service. She holds a Master's Degree in both Nursing and Clinical Forensic Medicine and was the first Nurse Practitioner to become an accredited forensic examiner in New Zealand. Previously, all forensic examiners had been doctors. Lei says expanding Nurse Practitioner roles into forensic medicine has significantly improved timely access to care for those impacted by sexual violence. "As clinical leaders, Nurse Practitioners are driving innovation in advanced nursing in forensic health services and helping shape the future direction of care delivery in this critical, under-resourced field." It's also enabled better collaboration between professions.

As the Lead Clinician, Lei is the primary contact for New Zealand Police regarding all aspects of forensic medicine within the Eastern Districts region. Lei is passionate about training and mentoring others and is a clinical mentor and working group lead for the Medical Sexual Abuse Clinicians Aotearoa (MEDSAC) Medical Expert Review Group. She also provided strategic clinical oversight alongside Turanga Health in the redevelopment of their bicultural forensic services in Tairāwhiti. "I'm passionate about delivering appropriate services for underserved and marginalised communities, whilst also supporting services addressing recruitment challenges. I enjoy gaining insight into how other services operate, as it not only broadens my perspective but also allows me to bring back innovative ideas and best practices to enhance service delivery in our region."

The scholarship will enable Lei to attend the 2025 FAMSACA Conference, where she will speak on The Role of Aotearoa New Zealand Nurse Practitioners as Accredited Forensic Examiners: Expanding the Scope of Expertise in a Critical, Hard-to-Recruit Area. "I am honoured to be the first recipient of this award. I intend to keep encouraging more clinicians in to forensic medicine so we can ensure a sustainable workforce that can better serve vulnerable communities. And by doing so, we can improve health care accessibility for survivors." Chief Nurse Karyn Bousfield-Black says: Lei's work exemplifies the impact advanced nursing roles can have on transforming care and improving health equity. Congratulations Lei – you're an inspiration to others."

AMAZING WĀHINE: VERY INTERESTING HISTORICAL READ

Published by The Spinoff, May 2025

Written by June Grant

Reading the lost diary of the first indigenous woman to study at Oxford University

This year, more than a century after she enrolled at Oxford University, pioneering Te Arawa scholar Mākereti Papakura will be awarded a posthumous Master of Philosophy in Anthropology from the University of Oxford. The recognition honours her extraordinary contribution to ethnography – one that challenged colonial norms by documenting the richness of Māori life from within. Born in Matatā in 1873 and raised in Whakarewarewa, Mākereti was a cultural authority, a beloved guide and the first known indigenous woman to enrol at Oxford. Her thesis, published after her sudden death in 1930 as *The Old-Time Māori*, remains a landmark work. For her descendants and the people of Tūhourangi – Ngāti Wāhiao, the honour is a long-overdue affirmation of a life lived boldly across worlds. And for one of her whānau, reading through her 1907 diary reveals just how alive, political and purposeful that life really was.

As a child, I was captivated by a black-and-white photo in my parents' old album. It showed an enigmatic Māori woman wearing a headscarf and a large hei tiki, staring out with knowing eyes. My father Henry, who was raised in Whakarewarewa from 1915 by his kuia Rakera, told me she was his mother's cousin: Mākereti Papakura. He called her Whaea. She had lived in England, spoke "like the Queen," and once returned to the village in the 1920s for a brief visit. To my father, she was a glamorous figure – worldly and impressive. I was in my forties when I rediscovered her story. I remembered that Mākereti had left a diary behind in her sister Bella's home, Teawaimanukau. Reading it as an adult was something else entirely. The names she wrote of – Apirana, Maui, Te Rangihiroa, Tawa – were no longer just names. I knew who they were, what they meant to us, and to Aotearoa. Her diary, written in 1907, reveals a vibrant life at Whakarewarewa: hosting visitors from across the world, guiding tourists through geothermal wonders, and sharing meals and conversations with some of the most influential Māori thinkers of her generation. Sir Apirana Ngata, Sir Maui Pomare, and Sir Peter Buck (Te Rangihiroa) feature regularly, not as distant historical figures, but as friends. Alongside them, captain Gilbert Mair (Tawa), a close family friend, appears frequently in her entries. Together, these young leaders formed what became known as the Young Māori Party – a visionary collective working to uplift Māori health, education, land development and cultural pride.

Friday February 8, 1907: Tawa only in Ohinemutu – arranging Porimi’s funeral. Spent evening & had dinner with us... Brought some lovely peaches. He is a dear old father to us. Letter in Herald by W.B. Te Kuiti. A beautiful article written by an educated man and one who understands the Māori race. Kia ora W.B. Te Kuiti A Ake! Ake! Ake! One entry records Te Rangihiroa and his wife coming to live in the village. Others note her deep affection for her sister Bella, her grief when sending young nieces to boarding school, and the small joys and outrages of daily life. From lighthearted mentions of local observers satirising her haka, to fury at a policeman trying to stop villagers from bathing in their own pools, her voice is vivid.

Sunday June 30, 1907: Constable came out and said Māoris were not to bathe in roadside bath and he took down the names of the people there. Like their impudence to talk and interfere with things on our own private grounds.

The diary also captures moments of national significance. During Ngata’s campaign for parliament, Mākereti records the excitement, the vehicles used to shuttle voters, the gatherings and the performances. Wednesday December 4, 1907: Great excitement over our own election for Apirana Ngata. We had a motorcar to convoy our people backwards and forwards... Big lunch at Wahiao for all the tribes and our own people. Everything a huge success.” And then, this mysterious note: Tuesday November 19, 1907: A day never to be forgotten. No explanation follows. But in the back of the diary is a name and address: Richard Staples-Brown, Brampton, Oxfordshire. Four years later, Mākereti would marry him. They later divorced. And she, ever determined, went on to enrol at Oxford University to study anthropology.



MAGGIE PAPAURA AND HER SISTER BELLA, TWO WELL-KNOWN NATIVE GUIDES, WHAKAREWAREWA. ROTORUA.
J. R. Blencowe Photo.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

SAVE THE DATE

NZ College of Sexual & Reproductive Health Conference

01-02 May 2026

Hamilton City

We're excited to announce that the next NZCSRH Conference will be held on 1-2 May 2026 at **Claudlands Events Centre** in **Hamilton**.

The programme will kick off on Friday, 1 May with a workshop day offering a range of options to choose from, followed by the conference day on Saturday, 2 May.

Further details, including programme and registration information, will be shared in the coming months, but for now, mark the dates in your calendar!

ICWHBC-2026

Lower Hutt, New Zealand 04th
Feb 2026

**International Conference On
Womens Health And Breast
Cancer
(ICWHBC)**

[https://scienceandresearch.net/
Conference/8642/ICWHBC/](https://scienceandresearch.net/Conference/8642/ICWHBC/)

World Indigenous Cancer Conference 2026

Hei Āhuru Mōwai

warmly invite you to join us for the
World Indigenous Cancer Conference (WICC) 2026
in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Nau mai, haere mai, karahuihui ma ra, e.

WICC 2026 dates

Monday, 20 April - Friday, 24 April 2026
Energy Events Centre, Rotorua,
Aotearoa, New Zealand

Event Information

www.heiahurumowai.org.nz/wicc2026

Event contact

registrations@hpce.co.nz
0800 472 394

Welcome to our two new committee members

Kia ora koutou

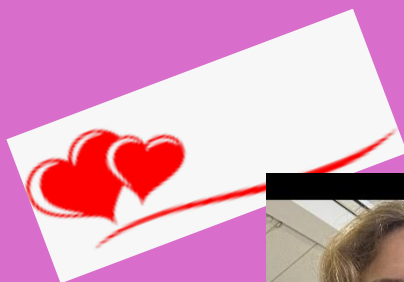
I'm **Josie** from Kirikiriroa!

I've spent my nursing career working across the Women's Health Service at Waikato Hospital and am currently splitting my time between the Women's Outpatient Department and working as an educator in the Women's and Sexual Health portfolio.

I find working in this specialty very rewarding because it allows me to support and empower women and their whānau through some of the most vulnerable times of their lives.

Through education, advocacy, and connection, I love having the opportunity to make a difference to their lifelong health and wellness.

I'm excited to be joining the WHC committee and contributing to the incredible work they do to improve the care we all provide to women across the motu.



Kia ora, my name is Georgina Barber and I am excited to be a new member of the Women's Health Committee!

I come from a background of working in women's health and sexual health. I now work at Wellington Hospital Women's Clinic as the Lead Colposcopy Nurse and am working towards qualifying as a Nurse Colposcopist.

I live in Wellington with my kids and when I'm not working or studying, I spend time with them and walking my very active miniature labradoodle.

Women's Health College Education Grant 2026

Applications now open!

Ko te manu e kai ana i te miro, nōna te ngahere.

Ko te manu e kai ana i te mātauranga, nōna te ao.

The bird that feeds on the miro berry owns the forest.

The bird that feeds on knowledge owns the world.

The Women's Health College (WHC) is proud to support members in their learning journey, recognising that education strengthens nursing practice and the wellbeing of wāhine, whānau, and communities. Each year, WHC provides \$7,000 to assist members with study, training, courses, or conferences that grow knowledge and enrich practice, reflecting our shared aim to improve women's health outcomes across Aotearoa.

Key details

Applications: Now open

Closing date: Friday 23 January 2026, 5:00pm

Eligibility: Open to current WHC members

Maximum grant: \$500 per person

Assessment: Reviewed by the WHC Committee in early February 2026

Notifications: Sent the week of 13 February 2026

Sharing back: Successful applicants are invited to provide a short reflection on their learning to share with and inspire others in the WHC newsletter.

No retrospective applications. Please apply before your activity starts.

Non-transferable funding. Your funding cannot be assigned to another person.

How to apply

Download the application form from the [NZNO Scholarships and Grants](#) webpage.

Email your completed form to the WHC Secretary: whcnznosec@gmail.com.

We encourage you to apply to help strengthen your kete, honour your mahi, your learning, and the wellbeing of wāhine and whānau.

JILL'S AMAZING AFRICA TRIP

My son Christopher, who was the MC at the recent Auckland conference, and I attended the International Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy (ISGE) conference in Zanzibar in May 2025.

Previously, I had worked with British nurses from the British Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy (BSGE) who established hysteroscopy training 25 years ago.

More recently, I joined the ISGE. It was a pleasure to meet nurses and midwives at the conference and explain the role of nurse hysteroscopy training in New Zealand - a concept that generated a lot of interest as it is relatively new internationally.

I have kept in touch with a couple of nurses who are keen to explore this further in the future. I also presented two posters: one on the training program itself, and the other on the demographics of ISGE staff members and where they come from.



JOIN US

This QR Code will take you to our Women's Health College page to join us if you are not already part of the college, or if you want to view our page.



FACEBOOK PAGE

We would love you to join us on our Facebook page. We now have 184 members 😊

If you would like to join, search Women's Health College NZNO on Facebook, answer the questions prompts and apply to join.

To protect our group, we are only letting WHC members join.

NOTE: If you are a new member or go under a different name on Facebook, please look out for my messenger message so I can help get you accepted

Thanks
Sandy Hamilton

