



PSYCHOSOCIAL ONCOLOGY NEW ZEALAND

PONZ AGM

**Monday 29 November 2010, 12.30 pm
Massey University, Wellington**

Minutes

Present: Juliet Ireland, Don Baken, Graham Harbutt, Hazel Nesar, Pat Russell, Jane Currie, Fiona Pearson, Susan Sutcliffe, Nathan Consedine, Kathryn Taylor, Bobbie-Joe Wilson, Janice Brown, Margot Wilson, Sue Corkill, Lisa Reynolds, Carmel Hurdle, Cassey Bruce, Gay Dungey, Josie Cowen, Catherine Dwan, Lorraine Sutherland, Tony Lusher.

Apologies: Cheryl Woolley, Susan Comber, Roz McKechnie, Sarah Hunter, Meg Hills, David Perez, Sarah Kidd, Lizzy Kent, Inga O'Brien

1.	Previous minutes	AGM minutes 27 November 2009 were accepted as being correct by Jane Currie and Hazel Nesar
2.	President Report	<p>“It is great to meet again at another PONZ conference. These conferences are always a highlight and provide an important focus and point of connection for psychosocial oncology in New Zealand. On behalf of the committee we would like to thank Hazel Nesar and her team for putting on such a good conference under such difficult conditions.</p> <p>It has been another good year for PONZ with a number of significant positive achievements.</p> <p>An important step this year was for the committee to refocus on the goals of the Society. The committee chose to focus at this stage on four goals chosen from the Objects of the PONZ Constitution. These goals are:</p>

- To promote education in psychosocial oncology for counsellors and social workers and all other health care professionals concerned with cancer care.
- To advocate for programmes and policies to meet the psychosocial needs of oncology patients and their supporters.
- To influence policies on psychosocial care and research priorities within New Zealand through liaison with key organisations.
- To advance the understanding of psychological, social, cultural, spiritual and ethical aspects of cancer and its treatment.

Subsequently, we have tried to focus on tasks which are in line with these goals. The committee sees the conference and website as key vehicles of these goals but is looking for other avenues.

Pat Russell has put a huge amount of work into totally revamping the website this year. This is now live and looking attractive and user friendly. Pat has put hours and hours into this and we are very grateful. One of the tasks for next year to provide more content for the site.

The PONZ awards have been progressing more slowly than expected but we now have a framework to build from and decisions for these should be finalised in the new year. Dr Chris Atkinson and Dr Chris Wynne have suggested an early career award called the Doug Sexton Award and have provided initial funding for this. The committee would also like to have a second award which recognises significant long term achievement. Details of both of these will be placed on the PONZ website next year and it is felt appropriate that they are first awarded at the PONZ conference in Christchurch next year because of the connection with Doug Sexton.

The PONZ committee has been looking to raise the profile of PONZ because we believe that as health professionals focused on psychosocial care we have an important voice. As part of this we have written to each of the Cancer Networks and asked that a PONZ member be included in their committee. This has received a very positive response. It has also been good that the PONZ committee has been consulted about psychosocial issues by other cancer organisations.

It is also heartening to hear of psychosocial special interest groups being formed in Christchurch and Auckland.

		<p>Overall, it is good to see the focus of PONZ move beyond just the conference. The conference will always be very important but we also have the opportunity to achieve more that for psychosocial care in the cancer setting.</p> <p>Finally we would like to that the PONZ committee for all their work over the last year. I know you are each very busy with your work but it is encouraging to look back and recognise that we have achieved some good things together this year.”</p> <p>Don Baken & Cheryl Woolley Co Presidents Psychosocial-Oncology New Zealand</p>
3.	Secretary/treasurers' report	<p>Please see attached financial statement.</p> <p>We are in good financial health as a result of the unexpected profit from the 2009 Conference in Dunedin. However, we cannot rely on every conference giving us an income. This year our significant expense has been the redevelopment of the website.</p> <p>The committee has discussed putting a proportion of our money into a term deposit, this still requires further discussion.</p>
4.	Election of Officers	<p>Cheryl Woolley has resigned from the committee in her role as Co-president. All PONZ members thank Cheryl for her work as co-president over the past two years.</p> <p>Nominations were called for officers President: Don Baken nominated by Jane Currie, seconded by Lorraine Sutherland Secretary/treasurer: Juliet Ireland nominated by Jane Currie, seconded by Don Baken.</p> <p>The committee also invites a Christchurch representative. The local Christchurch interest group will discuss and nominate someone to be on the committee.</p>
5.	Membership rule change	<p>At the 2009 AGM, a proposed membership rule was discussed. Unfortunately, a required quorum of 15 members were not present at this meeting to vote on the proposed change.</p> <p>The proposed change was outlined as below.</p>

		<p>The current committee proposed 2 changes to the membership rules</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) include a student membership at a reduced fee 2) have 2 pathways to full membership rather than a single pathway <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. membership is open to registered Health Professionals with proof of registration b. the current membership process remains where 2 current members must nominate the person applying for membership <p>16 members who were present voted in favour of the proposed change. No members voted against the change.</p> <p>Nathan Consedine mentioned that it may be beneficial for our membership numbers to include the membership fee with the conference fee so employers, in particular some Universities, may reimburse for the cost of membership.</p>
6.	General Business	<p><i>Local Interest groups</i></p> <p>Lorraine Sutherland introduced the Christchurch Psychosocial Oncology forum. They formed in June 2010 and have developed a distribution list. They have contacted the committee with a number of questions about the relationship the group has with the National committee, including taking on the PONZ objectives. The committee supports the forum and invites a member to sit on the committee to maintain links.</p> <p>Juliet Ireland says that a local group has also formed in Auckland and is planning a number of education sessions in 2011.</p> <p><i>Committee meeting face to face</i></p> <p>Pat Russell raised the idea of having a PONZ meeting at the Conference to discuss items face to face and that don't fit into the AGM format. The committee has monthly 1 hour teleconference meetings which gives us limited time to decide on all matters.</p> <p>Pat also raised the idea of whether it would be appropriate for PONZ to financially support a face to face meeting half way through the year. This will be discussed further at a committee meeting, early in 2011.</p>
	Next meeting	November 2012, Christchurch

PONZ financial statement 1/12/2009 – 30/11/2010

Income

Membership fees	1870.00
Interest	53.35
Conference 2009	<u>40550.18</u>
	42473.53

Expenditure

Conference 2009 gift	50.00
Bank fees	45.00
Teleconference fees	191.52
Conference 2010 seed money	5000.00
Incorporation fees	100.00
Website hosting	232.84
Website development & maintenance	<u>3281.01</u>
	8900.37

Opening bank balance 1/12/2009	15359.61
Closing bank balance 30/11/2010	48932.77