



PSYCHOSOCIAL ONCOLOGY NEW ZEALAND

PONZ Annual General Meeting
Friday 27 November, 4-5pm
Otago Museum, Dunedin

Present: Don Baken, Juliet Ireland, Susan Comber, Pat Russell, Amanda Wilde, Sarah Hunter, Graham Harbutt, Hazel Nesor, Gay Dungey, Lorraine Sutherland, Sarah Kidd, Roz McKechnie, Jane Curries, Kate Richardson (members), Inga O'Brien, Jane Rollings, Jo Tuaine (non-members)

1. Minutes of Previous AGM

Minutes for the Annual General Meeting on November 17 2008, having been previously circulated, were accepted by Sarah Hunter and Seconded by Amanda Wilde.

2. Presidents report

Don presented on behalf of himself and Cheryl Woolley who was unable to attend.

The last 12 months has been a time of transition with new co-presidents and a new secretary. The bulk of the time of PONZ committee meetings has been devoted to conference matters. The Otago conference committee are to be congratulated for organising such an impressive and well subscribed event during such hard economic times. Pat Russell and the conference organising committee have made several suggestions that will hopefully make organisation of the conference easier in the future. These include deciding on the venue 18 months before the conference and becoming an incorporated society. We would like to thank Wellington for taking on the role of organising the 2010 conference and to ask other regions to consider organising the 2011 conference.

The committee has also undertaken updating the website. This includes both the content and the style. It is hoped to make the website a more user friendly and useful place where people interested in psychosocial oncology can access information. Work has also carried on with the development of awards for recognising excellence. These awards are designed to both to encourage the development members new to the field of psychosocial-oncology and to recognise sustained contribution to the field. The committee have applied for IPOS Federation status and are waiting to see if our application has been accepted. This will allow us to be formally joined to the international community. Additionally, areas that can bring about significant benefit for the field of psychosocial-oncology while not placing too much of a burden on busy people will be explored in an ongoing way in 2010.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the PONZ Committee for their efforts over the last year. In particular, Juliet Ireland who has worked particularly hard on your behalf.

Best wishes for 2009 and beyond.

Don Baken & Cheryl Woolley

Co Presidents Psychosocial-Oncology New Zealand

3. Finance report

Currently we have \$15,000 in the bank.

4. Invitation to join PONZ Committee

An invitation was extended for other member to join the committee. Jane Currie and Ros McKechnie registered their interest in doing so.

5. Incorporation of PONZ

Having incorporated society status will protect individual members from financial liability as well as make it easier to apply for grants in the future. Members signed a form for Incorporated status which will be filed with the Companies office.

6. Membership rule changes

The current committee proposed 2 changes to the membership rules

- 1) include a student membership at a reduced fee
- 2) have 2 pathways to full membership rather than a single pathway
 - a. membership is open to registered Healthy Professionals with proof of registration
 - b. the current membership process remains where 2 current members must nominate the person applying for membership

Currently Social Workers are in the process of all becoming registered so may not be able to apply under category a., however, they are still eligible under category b.

The required Quorum of 15 members was not reached at this meeting to be able to vote on rule change. Therefore, members will be asked to vote on this issue early 2010, by way of an email vote.

Currently there are 39 members of PONZ where over 130 people attended this years conference. Therefore we need to make membership easy and attractive.

7. Meeting closed 4.40pm