



New Zealand Orthotic and Prosthetic Association

NZOPA Presidents Report –2018-2019

This year has been another busy year for the executive team. We have seen our numbers grow to 90 Full Members, 6 Associate, 3 Honorary Fellows making a total of 99 members.

This year we had 18 new membership applications.

Several members have left for greener pastures and we wish them all well for the future.

The Executive has again lost a number of members including Conference, CPD, Website with limited support from our Treasurer due to unforeseen circumstances. This has put the remaining 5 members of the Executive under considerable stress. Despite this we have had the development of the new website go ahead, the conference come together and the CPD portal up and running. There have been Executive meetings on average every 4 – 5 weeks.

There have been a number of issues which have been bought up by members, membership levels and qualifications also accreditation of technicians. These of which the executive will tackle with membership support in the coming year. The Code of Ethics, Complaints process and standards of Practice have all been added in draft form to the new website.

To be part of the Executive takes time and commitment to furthering the profession and promoting ourselves as professional allied health members. The commitment required cannot be stressed enough to those considering a role in developing our future.

At this time I would like to remind people who are considering an executive position that your commitment is needed to cover the work involved, which would lead the NZOPA to having a stable team to progress the work in the coming year. The few cannot sustain the energy required, so please choose wisely.

This year we did intend to get regular newsletters out but due to the workload this did not happen. In an effort to keep members informed we have tried to send emails for any significant updates.

I would like to thank those left in the team for committing both time and energy into this very busy year.

The day to day running of the NZOPA including the instigation of the new CPD system, has meant a large amount of work for a number of the Executive, especially the Vice President and our admin support Janette without whom the Executive would be overwhelmed.

We hope those of you who have logged into the CPD portal have taken advantage of the wealth of opportunities for education with the Webinars available. With thanks to AOPA. We hope you have taken advantage of the CPD Portal seminar at his conference.

We would like to thank Janette for her continuing assistance and guidance with the website and the administrative support she offers the NZOPA.

A big thank you to Lizzie for starting the conference planning and are sorry to lose her. We wish her all the best in her new role over the ditch.

I hope that we all find this conference a great opportunity to continue to get to know each other, develop networks and continue to learn, share ideas and develop our skills.

We continue to look forward to continuing to build on relationships with Orthotic and Prosthetic suppliers and companies and in partnership develop training opportunities to support our members skills and knowledge.

This year the Executive has been looking at scholarships and support for members with ongoing learning opportunities. The executive has created a fund for members to apply for financial support to attend courses. This year we also will be having winners for both Orthotic and Prosthetic Case studies via a \$500 scholarship each and a highly commended in each discipline of a \$250 scholarship each for an education opportunity of their choice. An application form is being developed and will be available on the website.

The ACC contract is ongoing and the executive is also looking at the effect the Therapeutic Devices bill may have on our professions.

Moving forward the NZOPA needs to continue the forward momentum and develop our associations rules and procedures. These are key to being able to grow future opportunities with regard to HPCA, AHANZ and other memberships.

At present the membership fee is just meeting our needs, however to move forward and employ an Executive officer we need to increase the fees for the 2020 year. Our recommendation is to increase the fee from \$300 to \$450 for full membership and to increase associate membership from \$150 to \$250. We also recommend application fees to increase from \$150 to \$250.

The review of the NZOPA rules is still only partially completed, we still need to review membership levels and accreditation of technicians.

With the support of AHANZ, we continue to work towards a robust and appropriate Professional Association.

Working together we can all further our profession and develop a higher profile to deliver recognition with allied health professions and stakeholders.

I look forward to an exciting future for our Association and the development of our voice as a strong allied health profession, supported by practitioners who are passionate in delivering excellence to the people we serve.

It is a real privilege to work with you all as committed and enthusiastic members for the betterment of the future of Orthotics and Prosthetics in New Zealand.

Cherry Holliday

NZOPA President 2018/19