

**PSNZ Annual General Meeting 2024**

**Executive members:**

Tanith Alexander (President/Chairperson)  
Ngaire Anderson (Secretary)  
Jennifer Barrowclough (Treasurer)  
April Mihaere (Consumer representative)  
Nicola Patterson  
Barbara Cormack (apology)  
Merophy Brown (apology)

**Attendees**

Elza Cloete, Mariam Busch, Jane Alswailer, Malcolm Batten, Sarah Latus  
Attended later in meeting:  
Caroline Crowther, Meghan Hill, Jane Harding  
(quorate)

**Apologies**

Executive members as above, Frank Bloomfield, Katie Groom, Chris McKinlay, Liza Edmonds,

• Meeting Opening

Karakia and welcome by President Dr Tanith Alexander

1. Previous meeting minutes 2023

2023 AGM minutes accepted as accurate:  
- Accepted Jennifer Barrowclough  
- Seconded April Mihaere

2. Previous meeting matters arising

- No matters arising from previous minutes

3. President's report

2023 was highlighted by the successful Geoffrey Thorburn lecture event, in collaboration with PSANZ, held at AUT campus in Auckland in Oct 2023. Distinguished Professor Dame Jane Harding presented the Geoffrey Thorburn Lecture, and the recording of her lecture is now available through the Perinatal Society of New Zealand website. PSNZ members can view it here:

<https://perinatalociety.org.nz/event/geoffrey-thorburn-visiting-lecture/>

The Geoffrey Thorburn event was sponsored by five companies, and with the support of PSANZ, a small profit was made, which we are investing back into the Society and its membership:

- Membership portal upgrade
- Website refresh
- Early career travel awards
- Consumables
- Replenish PSNZ useable funds

**Membership portal:**

PSNZ has moved to a subscription model whereby members automatically renew membership on the anniversary of joining unless members request not to renew. This allows for seamless continuous membership. This takes us out-of-step with PSANZ membership processes (there is an annual subscription from January – December). There has been a lot of work in the background, and we now have a system whereby PSNZ membership

generates a notification to PSANZ, and PSNZ updates PSANZ with membership details monthly. We are now more likely to get notified when a NZer applies for PSANZ membership and they are directed to us if the member wishes.

**Website refresh:**

- With the addition of the Geoffrey Thorburn Lecture in a members-only part of the website, we plan on increasing member content as time goes on.
- We are looking to change the mission statement on the website. 'The Perinatal Society of New Zealand is a multi-disciplinary society dedicated to improve the health and long term outcomes for māmā, pēpi, and whānau, prioritising equitable outcomes for all'

**Early Career Travel Awards:**

Congratulations to our recipients who have been awarded \$500 towards expenses for PSANZ Congress in Christchurch:

Anja Bronnert: The Effect of Vitamin Supplementation on Neurodevelopmental and Clinical Outcome in Very Low Birthweight and Very Preterm Infants – A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Eamon Walsh: Oral Diazoxide Versus Placebo for Severe or Recurrent Neonatal Hypoglycemia: Neonatal Glucose Care Optimisation (NeoGluCO) Study, a Randomised Controlled Trial AND Parental Perspectives in the Management of Neonatal Hypoglycaemia

We circulated a call for two Indigenous early career researcher travel awards but did not receive any applications. These awards will be carried over to the next ASM.

**Current membership = 113 (up from 88 last year)**

Dietitian	4
Epidemiologists	3
Midwives	9
Neonatal Nurse/ NNP	11
Neonatologists	35
Obstetricians	17
Scientists	25
Other	9

We have updated the discipline options for members within the online portal. If you can go into your membership portal and choose which discipline you are, that will be helpful. We are also collecting region so we understand where in NZ our members are, and optional ethnicity.

**PSANZ activities 2023:**

- Consultation on perinatal guidelines
- Co-hosted webinar with the OnTrack committee
- Joint On Track and PSNZ newsletters now occurring
- Supported On Track clinical trial development workshop recently held in Auckland

**PSNZ planned activities 2024:**

- Support PSANZ Congress, Christchurch, April

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase Committee membership, including planning for new President in 2025 (president-elect position?)</li> <li>• PSNZ ASM Sept 2024</li> </ul>
4. Treasurer's report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geoffrey Thorburn was able to return a small profit due to self-management, sponsorship, support of PSANZ and significant cost savings from AUT (venue host) who heavily discounted their costs by 85% as Jennifer is a staff member and PSNZ is a charitable organization. A profit of \$7320 was achieved.</li> <li>• Accounts opening balance 31/12/2022: Cheque: \$34,092.89 Savings: \$60.54 Term deposits (total): \$45,432.00 (matures June 2023)</li> </ul> <p>2023 financials (to Dec 2024) not complete as yet (with accountants Kendons).</p> <p>Provisional balances 31/12/2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheque: \$39,378.41</li> <li>• Savings: \$75.38</li> <li>• Term deposits (total): \$47,363.68</li> </ul> <p>A full financial statement can be sent to members by emailing <a href="mailto:admin@perinatsociety.org.nz">admin@perinatsociety.org.nz</a></p>
5. Executive Committee Elections	<p>We thank the following Executive members that have stepped down:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jo Clements</li> <li>• Nadia Pendigrast</li> <li>• Jules Dewhurst</li> </ul> <p>Current executive wish to remain in existing positions for 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tanith Alexander (President)</li> <li>• Ngaire Anderson (Secretary)</li> <li>• Jennifer Barrowclough (Treasurer)</li> <li>• Merophy Brown</li> <li>• Barbara Cormack</li> <li>• April Mihaere</li> <li>• Nicola Patterson</li> </ul> <p>Nomination passed</p> <p>Tanith Alexander has notified the membership she will step down from President of PSNZ at the 2025 AGM.</p>
6. Other business	<p><b>Potential constitution changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Changes to the constitution at the AGM need to be unanimous. At the time of voting, we had a quorum, however, given the nature of the substantive changes, while those present were generally supportive, it was suggested that we should have wider discussion amongst the membership, potentially at the proposed ASM (or at a special meeting).</li> <li>- Decision to bring substantive changes to another meeting, but voting on smaller, more administrative changes:</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Section 2: Addition of item ii. 'To uphold the obligations to Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) as part of the Society's strategic and operational activities. <b>(Bring to a special meeting)</b></li> <li>2. Section 3.1: Addition of 'Allied Health' <b>unanimous yes</b></li> <li>3. Section 3.3: Update to how applicants become members to reflect how the society works <b>(Bring to a special meeting – some duplication of wording with same/similar meaning)</b></li> </ol>

4. Section 4.2: Update of removal of membership if subscription lapse from six, changed to three months **unanimous yes**
5. Section 8.1: To prioritise Indigenous representation on the Executive committee  
**(Bring to a special meeting – consider changing prioritise to encourage or promote Indigenous representation, does ‘prioritise’ limit the ability of the Society to function if an Indigenous representative isn’t found? Is it the membership or the Executive responsibility to ‘prioritise’? Does this mean an Indigenous representative must be elected over a non-Indigenous representative in all circumstances? etc.)**
6. Section 9.4: Update to reflect current online banking processes – **unanimous yes**

**Membership fee increase**

With increasing costs overall, and 75% of membership fee to PSANZ, proposal to increase membership fees by 12-13% overall as follows:  
 In addition, with recent increases in Allied Health pay, many will be just above the \$120,000 threshold but do not have CME. So proposal to increase the top band to \$130,000, or with CME. These fees are still below PSANZ membership fees.  
 Discussion around whether it’s useful to increase the lowest band: They currently are 26 of the 113 members

Membership costs Annual salary of members	Proposed increase to salary of members	Previous	Proposed
< \$50,000	< \$50,000	\$66	\$75
\$50,000 - \$120,000	\$50,000 - \$130,000	\$115	\$130
> \$ 120,000	> \$130,000 or with CME	\$150	\$170

**Location of PSNZ ASM**

Discussed that current executive has saved money and made small profits for the Society by leveraging connections in Auckland and would want to continue to do so.  
 Discussion around how Wellington has previously been a usual location for ASM, but costs would be higher, including travel for Auckland Executive members who don’t have CME.  
 Also mention that the ASM typically would be a day-long meeting so attendees could avoid accommodation costs and would often piggyback on to another meeting.  
 Discussion about not having an ASM in the year where PSANZ Congress is in NZ – challenge with that is ASM is typically Sept/Oct and Congress abstracts are often Nov, so close timing the year before. The same year may be an opportunity for those who weren’t quite ready for PSANZ abstract submission.  
 Plan for 2024 (avoiding other conference clashes) is currently Auckland PSNZ ASM 19-20<sup>th</sup> Sept

**Meeting closed 1pm**

Tanith thanked the members present for their time and support of the Society. Meeting closed with a karakia