

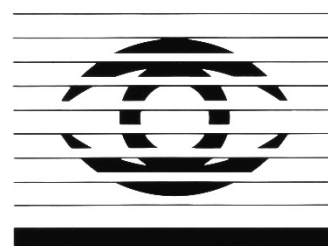
NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF OPTOMETRISTS



THE 2020 - 2021

Annual Report

91st ANNUAL REPORT AND ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION
OF OPTOMETRISTS INC



NZAO Strategic Plan 2019 - 2024

NZAO: The voice for optometry and of optometrists

Our vision: A trusted and recognised optometry profession meeting the needs of New Zealanders in providing excellence in eye health and vision care.

Our mission: To champion, develop and support optometry and optometrists in partnership with members and stakeholders.

Strategic Goals:

Key focus areas:

Advancing Skills:

Our membership is skilled, evidence-based, connected, engaged, future-focussed and diverse.

- * Ready access to resources, guidelines, insights, intelligence and standards.
- * A future focussed optometry profession.
- * Innovative and high impact research and scholarship.
- * Standards for patient protection in vision and eye care.
- * Impactful professional development and learning opportunities for members.

Growth and

Sustainability: The association is equipped to deliver the strategic goals in alignment with its vision and mission.

- * NZAO's vision, mission and value is clearly articulated through NZAO's key communication platforms - the website, TVC and ENews.
- * Effective and efficient governance through attracting, developing and retaining mission-driven and engaged Council members.
- * Membership 90% (or higher) of APC holders.
- * Structures and functions promote member participation.
- * Diversity and inclusiveness within NZAO's membership and leadership.
- * National office staff have the support, structure, and capability to deliver NZAO desired outcomes.
- * Strong financial performance and financial controls ensure NZAO is well resourced to meet the demands for services.

Visibility and

Advocacy: Optometrists are recognised as:

- * the foremost authority on primary eye health and vision care.
- * the first choice providers for eye health and vision care.
- * the primary authority on matters related to standards of vision.

- * Effective strategic stakeholder relationships.
- * Member experts in different fields can be called upon for clinical expertise or as media spokespeople.
- * Optometry has a high profile as an essential primary health care profession
- * There is high public awareness about vision and eye care.
- * NZAO's brand is well known and perceived positively.

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INTRODUCTION

The New Zealand Association of Optometrists (NZAO) has a **Vision** of a trusted and recognised optometry profession meeting the needs of New Zealanders in providing excellence in eye health and vision care.

Our **Mission** is to champion, develop and support optometry and optometrists in partnership with members and stakeholders.

Our strategic intent:

Advancing Skills:

Our membership is skilled, evidence-based, connected, engaged, future focused and diverse.

Growth and Sustainability: The association is equipped to deliver the strategic goals in alignment with its vision and mission.

Visibility and Advocacy: Optometrists are recognised as:

- the foremost authority on primary eye health and vision care.
- the first-choice providers for eye health and vision care.
- the primary authority on matters related to standards of vision.

Our annual report provides an overview of our activities and achievements for the year under review 2020 – 2021.

NZAO COUNCIL 2020 - 2021

President:	Ms Rochelle van Eysden	Christchurch
Vice President:	Ms Chelsey Alexander	Kerikeri
Past President:	Mr Callum Milburn	Dunedin
Councillors:	Mr Wilson Sue	Upper Hutt
	Mr Hadyn Treanor	Auckland
	Ms Sita Thakersi	Lower Hutt
	Ms Renata Watene	Auckland
Executive Officer:	Siobhan Molloy (July to December 2020)	Wellington
	Peter Anderson (June 2021)	Wellington

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I would have never expected to be in the midst of another national Covid 19 outbreak and lock down when I wrote a piece for this year's annual report. This time the Delta variant has changed the game with mandatory masks which poses yet more challenges to the way we work. Who knew anti-fog products would become such a life essential?

Those of us outside of Auckland very much feel for our Auckland colleagues who are still unable to practice. Just because we have been here before does not make the impacts or stresses any less this time and I wish to recognise how difficult this is for everyone. Please make sure you reach out for help if you need it, and the Association is here for you.

One surprising turn of events last year was the opportunity for Optometrist's to be able to train as Covid Vaccinators. The recognition of the Ministry of Health that we are competent to administer injections once trained will hopefully have positive impacts on expanding our scope of practice in the future.

It was disappointing to not be able to hold our annual conference last year, particularly with it being 2020. This brought the new challenge of navigating an AGM where most attendees were linking in and voting remotely and we still fervently hope this year's conference can go ahead, in person, in Wellington.

The launch of our new and improved website has not been without issues, but we are continuing to work on the content and functionality and hope you all like the new look and layout. On this note I cannot express enough thanks to Grant Firth and Heather Patterson for their hard work. It has been an incredibly challenging year for our National Office and the tireless dedication of Grant and Heather has allowed us to conquer some mountainous tasks.

We welcomed Peter Anderson, our new Executive Officer in June and he has had to hit the ground running on many time-critical issues. He has risen to this challenge with a great calm and leadership style which has allowed us to achieve a lot in the last three months. Hopefully you will be able to meet him and welcome him in person at the conference.

The members of the NZAO Council continue to advocate for our profession in numerous arenas, such as the Eye Health Coalition, the Primary Health Alliance, the Federation of Primary Health, and the Allied Health Association of New Zealand. The proposed changes to the New Zealand Health System create an opportunity for Optometry to develop greater recognition of our role as the primary health provider of eye care. We will be continuing to work with these groups and with the Transition Unit to ensure we can best position ourselves in the new national health structure.

I would like to thank all my fellow council members for yet another year of hard work and dedication to our profession. Lock downs, travel issues and bad weather have made some of our meetings a little trickier than usual, but it is always managed with good humour and the utilisation of technology to ensure we get the work done.

We may not be out of the woods with Covid yet but hopefully the disruptions to life and work will decrease as the vaccination program proceeds. I wish you all a safe and productive year. Please be kind to yourselves and those around you.

Kia kaha

Rochelle van Eysden

President of the New Zealand Association of Optometrists Incorporated.

MESSAGES FROM OUR COUNCILLORS

Chelsey Alexander

Over the last 12 months NZAO have continued to focus on supporting our profession to maintain a strong and stable foundation, as the go-to primary vision and eye health practitioners.

This second COVID affected year has created a significant change in our government's priorities with regards to how our advocacy work has been received by MoH and members of Parliament. Obviously, not only has most of the Ministry of Health's extra time and resource been funneled into the national COVID response, they have subsequently also been very focused on the new health reforms.

The positives that we have witnessed include the ongoing collaboration within the eye health community through groups like Eye Health Aotearoa. This group, with NZAO as a trustee, have reached out to multiple MP's to discuss topics like the Over-65's eye check proposal. EHA have secured funding for pieces of research that help start the accumulation of NZ specific eye health data and to help show the government the huge gap where there needs to be further data acquired.

Optometrists have obviously been faced with significant challenges over this past 12 months including:

- Reduced income
- Continuation of outgoings
- Juggling staff sickness/stand downs linked with COVID and testing
- Burnout of owners, employees, and families
- Mental health issues – COVID and non-COVID related
- Extra-curricular event cancellations
- Home schooling children
- Lack of routine
- ...and many more

Really hoping for a better 2022 for all, now that I list all the challenges.

Hadyn Treanor

In my first year on council, I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet with other members of the eyecare community outside my usual "bubble" of colleagues.

These have included the NZAO staff and members of council, the staff, and students at the SOVS, the ODOB board, and the other trustees of Eye Health Aotearoa. It has been inspiring to see the passion of all those involved and the drive to increase the recognition of the work the eyecare community provides along with a desire to keep pushing it forward to greater levels.

Rochelle van Eysden

Coming to the end of a 4-year period as NZAO president I feel that this year has provided a culmination of all the hard work of the previous years. Although another lock down was unexpected and far from ideal, it was gratifying that the systems developed last year have stood the test of time. This also extends to the challenge of managing my practice while being unable to open and homeschooling three children as well. During the first lock down, I struggled to manage all the demands on my time which required jumping from task to task every few minutes. I found that creating a schedule and allocating set times to NZAO governance, my practice and home schooling helped me regain my sanity. This is a way of thinking I have tried to carry on even when back in the practice. It is a busy life, but I still enjoy my involvement with the NZAO Council and look forward to this continuing.

Renata Watene

2021 has been another challenging year for a lot of us. Like many of you I had to juggle several things Optometry Business, Board roles (OCANZ - Strategic Indigenous Taskforce, NZAO, Waitematā DHB, Te Pai Reretahi), Children & Home Schooling. That said, lockdown presents different challenges for every person. 2020 saw us share our Mirumiru (bubble) with my Mum who was stranded in NZ after her flights back to Hawaii were cancelled. We also had an 18-year-old home stay student from China with us. During the early days of Lockdown 1.0 the NZAO council convened frequently to develop guidelines, attend meetings with stakeholders and groups in charge of the COVID-19 response and discuss concerns that were being raised by our members and staff. Looking back I am extremely grateful for the effort we put in then. Whilst draining and unrelenting, at the time we were extremely prepared for future lockdowns. Our team in the Head Office in Tawa have been exceptional, so a huge thanks to Peter, Grant and Heather for steering our waka.

Our team at Occhiali rose to the challenge and swiftly helped develop and implement new systems for staff and servicing our patients. Again, the effort the first time round meant that the subsequent outbreaks were about revisiting and refining our policies. We have an extraordinary team, and I would like to send a huge mihi to Kristoff, Fraser, Cinjah, Yasmin, Nikita, Sara, Jenna, and Jordan for their support during this time. I would also like to thank all the suppliers who provided unparalleled support to Optometrists throughout the Aotearoa during these times.

Fast forward to September 2021 and our mirumiru is smaller in size but overall everything is much the same. Juggling and learning to show gratitude for the warm whare (house) we have, the kai (food) we have in our kāpata (cupboard), the ipurangi (internet) we can use, hauora pai (good health) of our whānau (family). We know many were not as privileged as us.

My least favourite part of lockdown had to be home schooling. From arranging initial set up with limited supplies to slow internet. It seemed like a daily struggle to get the kids engaged with their schoolwork and not to get distracted browsing the internet. Some days, as zoom fatigue set in, I found I had the same level of motivation.

There were however many things I cherished about those lockdowns and the extra whānau time, being present for my children, getting to sleep in longer than usual, discovering and having time for Les Mills online workouts, creating video logbooks of recipes for our kids and having time to do all those things I never seem to find time for.

I am exceptionally grateful to be in New Zealand and to be part of the team of 5 million that is doing the hard yards to try and eliminate COVID-19. Whilst it seems like it is a lifetime away from being over, I want to thank everyone of our members for the sacrifices you have made to help protect our most vulnerable. We unfortunately lost our family GP who has looked after 5 generations of our family. Papa Joe Williams was a pillar for the Pacifica and Māori communities and his loss is still extremely raw for many of us. It is our reminder that COVID-19 is here, and it is real. To all our Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland) members thank you - we know repeated lockdowns has been exceptionally hard for you, but your sacrifice has not doubt saved lives and reduced the impact on our health care system. My work at Waitematā has meant we have seen a lot more of the logistic and the roll out. The health force has been tested to its capacity in the recent years and the recovery will be long. One thing is certain, we have had a very different trajectory to other countries and for that I am extremely grateful.

Lastly, I want to thank my fellow council members - many of whom faced their own challenges through lockdown. To Rochelle, Chelsey, Geoff, Wilson, Callum, Sita and Hadyn - ngā mihi nui. Thank you for giving your mana to the role of councillor and helping to guide our profession. Many people do not realise the amount of work that is involved amidst navigating your own COVID journey. The well-balanced conversations and necessary debates to make big decisions are not done lightly.

I will leave you with a final whakatauki

“Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takatini” Success is not the work of one but the work of many.

WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW?

ADVANCING SKILLS:

Our membership is skilled, evidence-based, connected, engaged, future-focused and diverse.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Annual Conference

The 2020 Annual Conference was cancelled because of the uncertainties for event planning and attendance created by COVID-19.

CPD Online

The COVID-19 pandemic has provided a watershed moment for online learning. Members were not disappointed as there was a significant boost to the catalogue of online learning opportunities including:

- NZAO and Centre for Eye Health (CFEH) continued their collaboration to enable NZAO members to have complimentary access to a significant catalogue of CPD material through the CFEH online portal: *Learning for Vision* as well as monthly webinars (number = 54).
- NZAO publishes a quarterly 30-question multiple choice quiz related to each Optometry Connection magazine. There are now 14 CPD accredited quizzes available on the website.
- The generous offer of free access to Optometry Australia's (OA) Institute of Excellence online learning CPD portal was extended until 31 May 2021. OA's Institute offers a comprehensive range of online learning opportunities.

Regional Networking and Professional Learning

NZAO branches and from time-to-time national office organise local opportunities for peer support, vocational education (lectures, peer review, or clinical placements), and opportunities for interaction with kindred professions. CPR training was organised in Christchurch during the year under review.

PUBLICATIONS

E-News

Keeping members informed about NZAO affairs, regulatory issues, clinical items of interest, and CPD opportunities is of utmost importance. The **E-News publications** continue to be distributed to our members on an average of twice a month as appropriate. We also send out smaller newsletters with a focus issue that are more urgent and do not fall into an E-News schedule.

The E-News has a significantly high open rate of over 65% with updates and important reminders such as professional indemnity insurance and COVID-19 guidance. The succinct format of the E-News affords our members a snapshot keeping them abreast and in touch with relevant matters. For the year under review 24 E-News letters were sent out.

July: • 7th July – 63.4% opens ○ COVID-19 Member Survey ○ 2020 AGM ○ Call for Notices of Motion ○ Pharma June	August: • 12th August – 66.4% opens ○ COVID-19 Alert Level Updates ○ Infection control fact sheet ○ COVID-19 Tracer app • 14th August – 63.3% opens ○ Message from the President ○ Pharma June CPD quiz ○ Call for optometrists that treat lid disease ○ Invitation for health practitioner's disciplinary tribunal ○ PHARMAC return to all-at-once dispensing • 24th August – 61.5% opens ○ Call for Nominations: NZAO Council ○ Mental well-being during COVID-19 ○ COVID-19 and business
September: • 11th September – 62.6% opens ○ AGM – Save the date ○ Fluconazole and use in pregnancy ○ ACC Seeking your views ○ Sustainability with contact lenses • 28th September – 60.8% opens ○ AGM agenda ○ Motions for AGM	October: • 2nd October – 58.8% opens ○ Reminder of AGM 2020 ○ Chance to participate in a survey for optometrists on Demodex blepharitis ○ COVID-19 Leave support scheme ○ Telehealth webinar: building a lasting service post-crisis • 22nd October – 67.8% opens ○ NZAO has migrated to a new membership management system ○ HR webinar opportunity ○ Cyber smart week
November: • 9th November – 64.6% opens ○ Privacy week and changes to the Privacy Act 2020	December: • 15th December – 62.4% opens ○ Season's greetings from NZAO ○ Glaucoma NZ symposium:

○ HR webinar opportunity ● 30th November – 64.3% opens ○ NZAO's new systems ○ HR webinar recording ○ Open letter to the Minister of Health	Registrations now open
January: ● 22nd January – 62.9% opens ○ Happy New Year from NZAO ○ Law change reminder: The privacy act	February: ● 16th February – 62.2% opens ○ COVID-19 Alert Level updates ○ Infection control and COVID-19 fact sheet ○ COVID-19 tracer app
March: ● 1st March – 68.2% opens ○ COVID-19 Alert Level Updates ○ What is happening at NZAO ○ COVID-19 Vaccinations for optometrists ○ CXO journal January ○ COVID-19 Support for businesses ● 19th March – 64.8% opens ○ Have you been negatively affected by COVID-19? ○ Overdue membership subscriptions ○ Optometry connections CPD quiz ○ Women's leadership scholarships available	April: ● 1st April – 67.6% opens ○ COVID-19 Vaccine updates ○ Issues with insurers and preferred suppliers ○ End of the Primary Health Alliance ○ Resurgence support payment ● 19th April – 64.3% ○ Ophthalmology questionnaire ○ Understanding patients with sensory issues
May: ● 4th May – 67.7% ○ NZAO Conference now in Wellington ○ Free HR webinar opportunity ○ Call for abstract submissions ○ Optometry Virtually Connected	June: ● 10th June – 71.2% ○ Your membership profile details ○ Centre for Eye Health CPD ○ Scholarships for women in leadership ○ World Health Assembly announcement

• 17th May – 69.4% ○ Call for COVID-19 vaccinators ○ Optometry Virtually Connected	
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Digital Total Vision Care



The **Total Vision Care (TVC)** A digital newsletter. Members continue to receive 10 publications over the year informing them on topical items of interest, NZAO happenings, regulatory changes, CPD opportunities and classifieds. The average open rate for the year is 35%.

July 2020 • PI Insurance renewals due • Call for nominations: NZAO Council • Notice of Annual General Meeting • Newsletter on eye care to GPs • Optometry articles of interest • 'Know Your Bones' online test • Women and Leadership Scholarships	August 2020 • Behind the Scenes: Visibility and advocacy • Recent HDC case on keratoconus • Optometry Australia's Institute of Excellence • MIMS Update • Contact Tracing Tool • CFEH Top 5 CPR recommendations • Highlights from the NZAO member survey
September 2020 • NZAO's Annual General Meeting • Council Nominations 2020 – 2021 • Last issue of Pharma • Access to Australia's Institute of Excellence extended • Choosing Wisely Means Choosing Equity: Research report	November 2020 • NZAO's 90th Annual General Meeting outcomes • NZAO and ODOB Memorandum of Understanding • Guidelines for businesses and services to defend against the re-emergence of COVID-19 • The Widening Scope of Contact Lenses – Adele Jane Jefferies • Information on the Privacy Act 2020 update • Heart Foundation new tool • Article: 'Astaxanthin – a potential ocular antioxidant?'
December 2020 • Season's Greetings from NZAO • Office Closures • Reminder: How to log in to your member records	February 2021 • Welcome to the New Graduates • Vaccinations for Optometrists • Reminder on Alert Levels • Medical Aspects of Fitness to Drive

• Glaucoma New Zealand Symposium 2021 • Cornea and Contact Lens Society One Day Conference	• A Guide for Health Practitioners • World Council of Optometry news • Clinical and Experimental Optometry journal
March 2021 • COVID-19 Vaccine Update • Well Child Tamariki Ora Review • Suicide Prevention through Optometry • Essilor Issue Response • NZAO Article in Aged Care magazine • Women in Leadership Scholarships • CPD Opportunity • World Optometry Day	April 2021 • NZAO Conference Updates • Overdue Subscriptions • PHARMAC Updates • Fisheye Optometry Research • WCO News • A Tiriti-dynamic system • Article: Strengthening Indigenous eye care in Australia and New Zealand through a Leaders in indigenous Optometry Education Network
May 2021 • Our New Website • Call for COVID-19 Vaccinators • NZAO's Student Awards 2021 • Eye Health Aotearoa: Expressions of Interest • Optometry Virtually Connected Open to Registrations • Provider Information: ACC • Special Olympics Call for Volunteers	June 2021 • Important information for members • Our new Executive Officer • PI insurance and COVID-19 vaccinators • NZAO Annual Conference 2021 • Research corner • Sign the petition for a national eye health survey • ACBO conference screenings • Mentoring for women in health

Clinical and Experimental Optometry

Published bi-monthly in Australia since 1919, **Clinical and Experimental Optometry (CXO)** is the official journal of Optometry Australia, the New Zealand Association of Optometrists, and the Hong Kong Society of Professional Optometrists.

The CXO is currently led by editor, Emeritus Professor Nathan Efron AC with support from deputy editor, Dr Maria Markoulli. Dr Lesley Frederikson, NZAO Clinical Director, is a member of the editorial board. NZAO members receive complimentary online access to CXO.



PHARMA: now Optometry Connection

Launched in 2008 by Optometry Australia to support the emergence of therapeutics in optometry, the **PHARMA** magazine was delivered as a member benefit to all New Zealand Association of Optometrists members.

PHARMA was published quarterly (March, June, September, and December) and offered New Zealand members 1.5 CD + 0.5 Gen CPD points per issue. It featured quality editorial with a strong emphasis on stories that promote cutting-edge therapeutic developments and research as well as

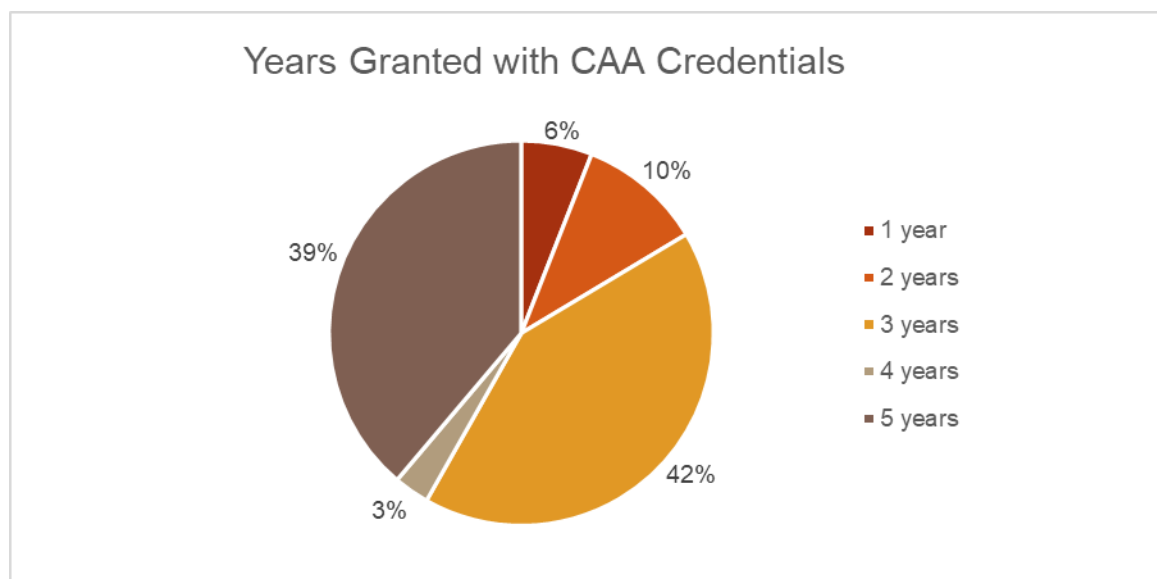
clinical case studies. This magazine's last issue was September 2020, being replaced by Optometry Connection in December 2020 which also has a CPD quiz paired with it.

The aim is to provide information that optometrists can use immediately in their day-to-day patient care or that will assist them to improve their knowledge across a range of eye health issues. It contains a range of reference material and informational resources including guidelines, standards, position papers, and links to external sources of information.

ACCREDITATION AND CREDENTIALING

CAA Credentialed Optometrists

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and NZAO continue their relationship to maintain a network of optometrists who have the credentials to conduct eye examinations for pilots and the aviation industry. CAA enhances and promotes aviation safety through effective safety regulation and by ensuring the industry to deliver high standards of safety as set by the minister of transport. NZAO works with CAA to facilitate the process by which credentialed optometrists can maintain their credentials. The initial criteria to become credentialed is completion of a face-to-face training presented by Rob Jacobs (SOVS and Claude Preitner (CAA). Since the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been neither a CAA Seminar nor a refresher course, however, there are plans to do so in 2022.



As of 30 June 2021, 67 members are credentialed to provide eye and vision reports for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). This is an increase of 5 from the previous year.

With increasing confidence in the record audit process for quality assurance it has been possible to extend the period of validity for credentials and the present distribution as illustrated in the figure above.

PRESCRIBING RESOURCES

Members receive access to MIMS Gateway online that includes access to MIMS Quick Reference and MIMS Drug alert. The Gateway brings together a comprehensive knowledge base of locally approved drug information designed specifically for healthcare professionals in their daily clinical practice needs and includes a link to the New Zealand Formulary, as well as other sources of online information users asked to have added, such as Medsafe's Prescriber Update, the Hospital Medicines list and hospital policies and guidelines.

The NZAO website has further TPA resources including links to medicine guidelines, standing orders, glaucoma prescribing, PHARMAC and Medsafe. Members can customise their own prescription pads.

AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND GRANTS FOR EYE OR VISION RESEARCH

The New Zealand Association of Optometrists has established three charitable trusts:

- **NZ Optometrical Trust (NZOT)** established 1966 for 'the purpose of assisting persons in the study of optometry in universities and other educational institutions in New Zealand.'
- **NZ Optometric Vision Research Foundation (NZOVRF)** established 1985 'to foster research in optometry and visual science at the School of Optometry, The University of Auckland.'
- **NZAO Education & Research Fund (NERF)** established 2008 'to develop and provide financial assistance for optometric education, learning and research for the benefit of the community' in response to a need for more resources to support postgraduate education and research.'

The main objective of the Trusts is to assist optometric education and eye or vision research in New Zealand for the benefit of the public of New Zealand. NZOT mainly assists undergraduates, while NERF and NZOVRF mainly assist university scientists and practitioners at the postgraduate and postdoctoral level. NZAO membership annual subscription includes a donation to NERF.

These charitable trusts are very cost effective, pay no fundraising fees, and donations are not used to pay administration costs or salaries. For the period 2008 to June 2021, over one and a half million dollars has been awarded from the combined resources of NERF, NZOT and NZOVRF.

This financial year donations from members to NERF was reduced by half in line with the reduction in the NZAO membership subscription rate. The funding shortfall was made up from investment income and grants reserve.

NZ Optometrical Trust (NZOT)

2021 Leon Garner Award for top student entering BOptom Pt III	Mahaya Chan	\$1,000
2021 Most Improved Student Entering BOptom Pt IV	Gurnoor Kaur Aulakh	\$1,000
2021 Rob Jacobs Award for top student entering BOptom Pt IV	Nana Aborampa-Mensah	\$1,000

2021 Most Improved Student Entering BOptom Pt V	Anna Xiong	\$1,000
2021 Michael Kalloniatis Award for top student entering BOptom Pt V	Stephanie Green	\$1,000
2021 Peg Wood Award for the student gaining the highest combined grade course OPTOM 441: Clinical Optometry	Jason Shen	\$500
2021 Top Māori or Pacifica student entering BOptom Part II	Malia Senerita 'Akanete Pateli	\$1,000
2021 Undergraduate extern scholarships	23 awarded	\$17,100

NZAO Extern Student Scholarships were started in 2010 to provide financial assistance for final year optometry students undertaking their clinical placements at the practices of NZAO members within NZ. Some of the feedback from scholarship recipients in 2021:

"The externship experience has been invaluable. I have learnt skills and techniques which I will take away for a lifetime. The scholarship provided me with the opportunity to be able to travel without hesitation to my externship locations and an experience I will remember for a lifetime."

"I was placed in two specialised practices which were so different in terms of specialisation, patient demographic, practice expansion size and many more ways. It showed me that each individual private practice in Optometry is unique and really widened my view on the wide range of ways to provide optimal care as healthcare professionals."

"I had an amazing time away at externship this year and learned so much. This was a very valuable experience to gain hands on optometry knowledge and find out how practices work in the 'real world'. We learn so much theory while at university and it was interesting to see how this is implemented in a business. It was valuable to get out and away from the supervisors marking you, and into a job type environment. It was here that I met passionate mentors with various subspecialties and knowledge to pass on."

"This placement has already changed my view on what I want to achieve in my future career. I didn't realise how many options there was post-graduation. I was excited by the quality of patient-care of both my mentor and the other optometrists I was able to observe. The entire experience was extremely worthwhile, and I know I see myself working in a similar practice like this in the future. The opportunity to practice Optometry in both a hospital and community setting, is something I aspire to achieve in the future. I would like to thank NZAO for the \$800 funding towards my 3-week placement. It gave me the opportunity to venture out to a more rural setting with a bit more confidence knowing money wasn't preventing me from experiencing something different. This opportunity was a pivotal point in my growth as an Optometrist and something I will be grateful for, for years to come. Thank you once again."

NZAO Education & Research Fund (NERF)			
Masters Completion Award	Adele Ralston		\$2,000

Masters Completion Award	Janice Yeoman		\$2,000
Doctoral Completion Award	Dr Renita Martis		\$2,000
Higher Degree (PhD) Research Write Up Scholarship	Wilson Pan		\$3,600
Postdoctoral Research Plan Seed Funding	Dr Joanna Black		\$22,000
NZAO SOVS CPD Database Library Project	SOVS		\$55,257
Total NZOT and NERF			\$110,457

Postdoctoral Research Plan Seed Funding was awarded to Dr Jo Black to assist her research in the areas of paediatric optometry, community eye health, and visual impairment at the School of Optometry, The University of Auckland. The funding is \$22,000 per annum for 5 years (\$110,000 in total).

NZAO SOVS CPD Database Library Project was started in 2020/2021 to develop a continuing professional development (CPD) resource tailored for New Zealand optometrists. The funding pays for a (0.45FTE) Professional Teaching Fellow with access to the educational resources of SOVS. An online library with NZ-relevant and practitioner-relevant content will assist undergraduates and practitioners. The funding, including working expenses, is \$55,257 per annum for 2 years (\$110,514 in total).

STANDARDS

The New Zealand Association of Optometrists provides expert advice on standards of eye health, eye safety, and optics to Standards New Zealand when requested, and represents New Zealand optometrists in the development and revision of Australia/New Zealand Standards related to optics, ophthalmics, eye safety, and vision.

Dr Lesley Frederikson, our clinical services director is currently a participating member of Standards Australia Group MS-024 – Optics and Ophthalmics which operates in the sector of Health and Community Services, Standards Australia Group SF-006 - Eye and Face Protection which operates in the sectors Public Safety, Public Administration, and Business and Management, and Standards Australia Group CS-053 – Sunglasses which operates in the sector of Consumer Products and Services and Safety.

MS-024 liaises with SF-006: Eye and Face Protection; and CS-053: Sunglasses. Its International Mirror Committees are ISO TC 172/SC 7 Ophthalmic optics and instruments and ISO TC 172 Optics and photonics, and it currently has five technical working groups:

- MS-024-03 Spectacles, Lenses and Frames
- MS-024-06 Ophthalmic Instruments and Test Methods
- MS-024-07 Ophthalmic Implants
- MS-024-09 Contact Lenses
- MS-024-09-01 CL and CL Materials

SF-006 has three international mirror committees: ISO TC 94/SC 6 Eye and face protection, ISO TC 44/SC 9 Health and safety and ISO TC 94 Personal safety -Personal protective equipment. It liaises with MS-024 and has six technical working groups:

- SF-006-00-03 Sunglasses and related eyewear

- SF-006-00-04 Occupational eye and face protection
- SF-006-00-05 Sports eye and face protection
- SF-006-00-10 Requirements for eye and face protection against laser radiation
- SF-006-00-11 Welding screens and curtains
- SF-006-00-12 Biohazard eye and face protection

UNIVERSITY

School of Optometry and Vision Science Board of Studies

The School of Optometry and Vision Science Board of Studies (SOVS) meets annually and is chaired by the Dean of the Medical and Health Sciences Faculty. The profession is represented by Dr Frederikson, NZAO clinical services director. The meeting provides strategic advice and provides a forum for SOVS to present its performance in terms of pass rates for the previous year, student appraisals of courses for the previous year, set out any changes to address areas of weakness, and present any programme changes planned for the future. It is a large group with representatives from the other schools and departments within the Faculty. Discussion with and perspectives of the other health professional groups within the faculty are always interesting and useful when considering the development of optometry within the university and in the wider field of health service provision.

This year the main meeting was in February as usual, and a second meeting was convened in June to provide for earlier planning for curriculum and staffing arrangements related to system integration across the whole campus.

Optometry Advisory Committee

The optometry advisory committee was not daunted by the restrictions on travel and met using an online platform on 3 April 2020. The meeting was successfully hosted by the School of Optometry and Vision Science and was joined by representatives from both the NZ Association of Optometrists, and the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board. This advisory committee offers a forum for discussion on matters pertinent to the training, continuing education, and the professional scope of optometry practice.

Continuity of education in a COVID-19 pandemic lockdown period was topmost on the agenda. SOVS outlined its innovation in using pre-recorded lectures, virtual tutorials, and video recordings of procedural labs. It was heart-warming to hear that 98% of mentors were willing to rearrange externships for later in the year. The meeting was also updated with key policy and legislative consultations including the Therapeutic Products Bill, the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA) amendment Bill, The Holidays Act and proposed changes to driver licensing related to vision screening.

Student activities

Transition to Work Event for Part IV and Part V Students

NZAO held their annual transition to work evening in September for part IV and V students. Students mingled with NZAO council and the executive officer providing an opportunity for informal exchange of questions and responses regarding entering the workforce.

Part II student's orientation lunch

In September 2020, a high tea was held for new part II students entering the optometry degree. The event offered an opportunity for students near the beginning of their study talk to their peers and the NZAO Council. This event was held in September instead of April 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also held again in April of 2021 closer to the beginning of the university year.

New Zealand Association of Optometrists Student Awards Event

The NZAO Student Awards were held in April 2021. Several students from the different years of study joined the NZAO Council to celebrate the award winners of the 7 student awards.

GROWTH and SUSTAINABILITY:

The association is equipped to deliver the strategic goals in alignment with its vision and mission.

The NZAO Council

During the year under review, the Council formally met six times face-to-face in September, October, December, February, April, and June.

The National Office

The NZAO national office located in Tawa, Wellington provides full administrative services to the Council and the Association

At year end the office staffing is comprised of 3 FTE which includes an executive officer, Peter Anderson; officer manager, Grant Firth and membership & communications coordinator, Heather Patterson.

The office staffing is complemented by Dr Lesley Frederikson who works part time as NZAO's clinical services director. Together their work includes:

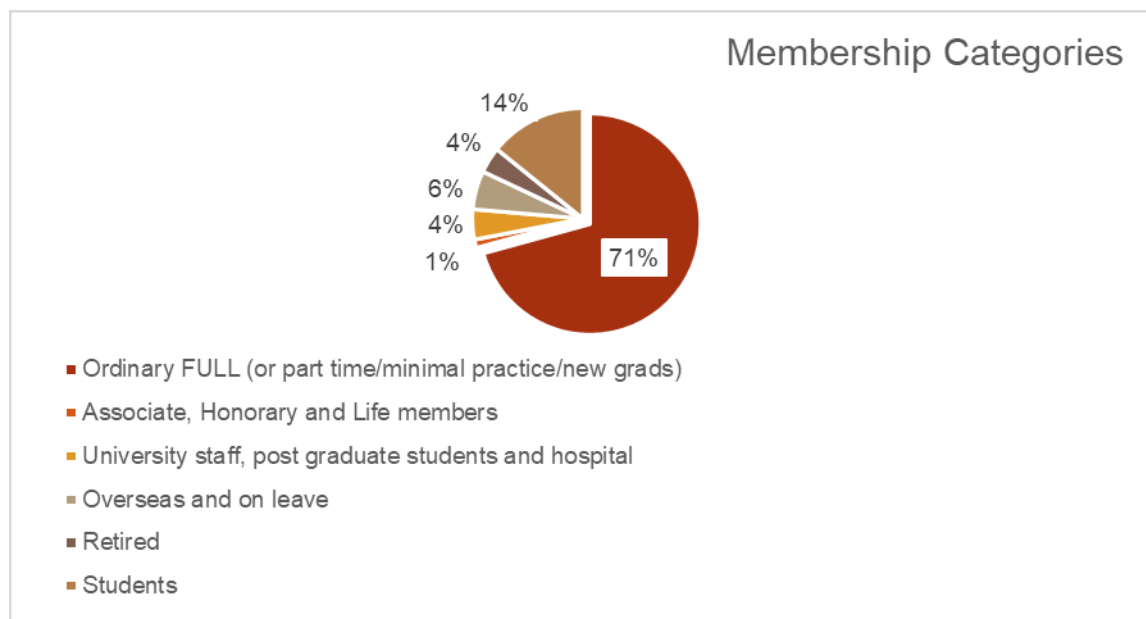
- Regular meetings; ad hoc briefings; consultation on specific issues with a variety of stakeholders including government and consumer groups; arranging Council representation on specific issues (e.g. media interviews, meetings with external agencies).
- NZAO committees including complaints, investigation, discipline, and various other ad hoc working groups.
- NZAO financial administration and audit; management of NZAO information technology; NZAO projects; administration services to VOSO, NZOT, and NERF; and management of NZAO scholarships.
- Management of NERF processes and grants; management of membership processes & records; student membership and services; support to Branches.
- Management and administration of CPD and events, including the annual conference and CPD online.
- Publications including the digital Total Vision Care newsletter; Primary Eye Care Quarterly; fortnightly E-news; member resources and member services including the NZAO professional indemnity scheme; development and provision of health information including pamphlets and short articles; and a comprehensive NZAO website.
- Processes for the AGM and production of the annual report; proposals for Council; and general correspondence.
- Communications and submissions to ministers, select committees or government departments; communication with external agencies; environment scanning; strategic development; projects, advice, and representation; and relationship management.
- Handling income phone calls and dealing with the public; responding to media enquiries; and providing a strong lobby force for a profession.

Membership

All members were offered reduced subs for 2020 and 2021 (2 years) because of the financial impact of COVID 19. Members are the lifeblood of any organisation and for NZAO this has proved to be so during this challenging year. The organisation thrives because so many of you contribute your time and services to contribute as council members, committee members, branch members, conference presenters, editors, reviewers, and contributors to our publications, and to NZAO submissions. Thank you all.

The mission of NZAO is to champion, develop and support optometry and optometrists in partnership with members and stakeholders. The big vision is of a trusted and recognised optometry profession meeting the needs of New Zealanders in providing excellence in eye health and vision care.

The Association had a total of 700 members as of 30 June 2021 plus an additional 116 student members making a total of 816 members. 615 Ordinary full members (71%) are comprised of Part time (6.2%), Minimal (3.7%), New Grads (5%) and the balance of 56.1% being full members.



Honorary membership:

At the AGM, honorary memberships were conferred on Dr Lesley Frederikson for her leadership over the last 20 years, Associate Professor Rob Jacobs, and Professor Michael Kalloniatis.

MEMBER SERVICES

Disputes Resolution Service

The NZAO has three governance committees each chaired by a council member with NZAO members and for the complaints committee also a lay person.

The NZAO complaints committee is often the first port of call if a patient were to make a complaint against an optometrist. The alternative is a direct complaint made to the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board of New Zealand and/or to the Health & Disability Commissioner.

This year there was only one complaint considered by the committee relating to a patient's dissatisfaction with the progressive lens prescription dispensed to her. There were several other complaints that the office was able to obtain an outcome for the patient with the optometry practice, without a need for complaint's committee involvement.

In May 2021 a member raised concerns about an advertising flyer being handed out at a public event in Auckland promoting Eyebody treatment methods by Peter Grunwald. NZAO filed a complaint with the Advertising Standards Authority that treatment being advertised for eyesight with visual dysfunctions had a clear 'therapeutic purpose claim' that contravened the Therapeutic and Health Advertising Code and may encourage members of the public to avoid or delay optometric or ophthalmic treatment for these conditions, placing them at risk of harm. The Advertising Standards upheld the complaint and requested Mr Grunwald withdraw his advertising.

Professional Indemnity Insurance

Members have access to comprehensive and competitively priced professional indemnity, business & employee support, and cyber insurances – the wide-ranging options can be tailored to suit members' personal circumstances.

For the 2020-2021 period 534 individual member policies were purchased with 128 taking 'business entity' liability insurance. Only 22 practices opted for cyber insurance.

Claims made during the year came to a total of \$37,701.46

Professional Appointments Listing and Practice for Sale Service

NZAO maintains a service of promoting professional appointments including job vacancies, in New Zealand and occasionally overseas, locum availability and practices for sale or for those seeking practices to purchase.

This confidential member service provides information to those seeking employment, and to NZAO practitioners looking to employ optometrists, including locums. Business owners can also let practitioners know about the potential sale/partnership-buy-in of their practice.

Members also trade equipment or advertise that they are seeking specific equipment.

These services are promoted on the NZAO website and appear on the back pages of the digital TVC.

Practice Consumables

NZAO has a range of items available to members at a modest cost, such as patient information pamphlets, display stands for use in practices, carrier bags printed with our logo, posters, and prescription cards for travelers.

During 2020 – 2021, 9550 pamphlets, 2750 paper bags and 300 travel cards were distributed

Clinical Priority Assessment of Cataract (CPAC)

Members continue to be able to complete clinical priority assessments of cataract (CPAC) online by registering through NZAO to access the NZAO virtual DHB. NZAO provides registration to CPAC as a service for all optometrists.

The assessment process is based on the national prioritisation criteria. It allows optometrists to identify a specific score to compare with their local DHB threshold to determine if the patient meets criteria for surgery. In some DHB areas the threshold score is shared allowing varying levels of direct referral or automatic priority can be used as a 'special case' due to increased risk from other conditions.

VISIBILITY and ADVOCACY:

Optometrists are recognised as:

- the foremost authority on primary eye health and vision care.
- the first-choice providers for eye health and vision care.
- the primary authority on matters related to standards of vision.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES - TIMELINE

The NZAO helps its members by working with the Government on the legislative issues that affect NZ optometrists:

- Optometry in NZ was unregulated when the predecessor of the NZAO was formed in 1912. The Association actively lobbied Government for optometry to become a legislated and regulated occupation. This eventually happened in 1928.
- The aspiration and desire of members at that time and to this day is for optometrists to be legally recognised and regulated as professionals rather than as retailers.
- The NZAO represented the collective views of members when the Government introduced the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA). This is the current legislation that regulates optometry in NZ.
- Under the HPCAA “optometrist” is a legal title, and the prescribing of ophthalmic appliances is a “restricted task” only to be performed by suitably trained and qualified health practitioners – optometrists and ophthalmologists.
- The restricted task makes it illegal for “refraction only sight tests” to be conducted in NZ because of the significant risk to public eye health and safety from undiagnosed eye disease. The restricted task means the clinical education and training required for a person wanting to use the title of “optometrist” in NZ is high by international standards.
- The restricted task is a direct result of the work undertaken by the NZAO and the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board of New Zealand (the Board is the regulatory authority appointed by Government). Without this combined and concerted approach there is no doubt the restricted task for prescribing ophthalmic appliances would not exist.
- The prescribing of medicines by optometrists resulted from NZAO actively applying to the Ministry of Health for optometrists to be designated prescribers when the Government passed the Medicines Amendment Bill into law in 1999. The NZAO worked with SOVS, the Optometrists Board, and other groups, so the TPA scope of practice for optometry came into effect in 2005. NZ optometrists who graduate from SOVS 2006 onwards are TPA-endorsed.
- In 2006 NZAO started working with PHARMAC to ensure optometrist prescriptions were eligible for pharmacy subsidies. As a result, the system of subsidies was reviewed to focus on patient characteristics rather than who prescribes the medicines. This means optometrist scripts for medicines are eligible for government subsidies just like ophthalmologist scripts for medicines.
- As a direct result of the efforts of NZAO, in 2014 NZ optometrists became “authorised prescribers” and, as such, equal under the law to other authorised prescribers such as registered medical practitioners and dentists. This has public health benefits for conditions such as glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy, and professional career benefits for optometrist health practitioners.

- In 2016 optometrists were included in regulations to the Medicines Act which allow them to issue standing orders. Previously, this privilege was restricted to medical practitioners.
- The Association made representations to ACC about the need for reports to be written by Medical Practitioners and made the case for optometrist reports to be accepted in the same way as medical practitioner reports for matters appropriate to the scope of practice for optometry. In November 2016, the Accident Compensation Amendment Act 2016 made these changes to the Accident Compensation Act 2001.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

There are several initiatives which serve to remind the public and other health sector stakeholders that optometry is indeed the first choice for eye health and vision care. These actions are deliberate and planned and sustained in their effort to establish and maintain understanding.

Save Our Sight

NZAO's public awareness campaign for eye health was another casualty of COVID-19. Save Our Sight will return in 2022.

Primary Eyecare Quarterly

The quarterly Primary Eye Care Newsletter is circulated to over 2,400 general practitioners and provides an avenue for optometrists to present interesting case studies and information relevant to a GP's practice. Since 2001 NZAO has published 63 issues.



- **Issue 60** (July 2020) discussed comprehensive eye care and how it is vital that GP's refer their patients with eye care needs to an optometrist as visual impairment is a national and global health concern that has a negative impact on physical and mental health.
- **Issue 61** (September 2020) was a focus on the recently released 2020 budget's inclusion of free health and eye check-ups and what this would mean in practice.
- **Issue 62** (December 2020) discussed how optometry and the eyes related to the COVID-19 virus, and how the eyes could be a portal for infection.

- **Issue 63** (April 2021) responded to an increase in interest in the effects of blue lights on the eyes. It reviewed the research to see whether blue-light lenses are helpful or simply a marketing farce.

MEDIA ACTIVITIES

NZAO – usually NZAO’s media spokesperson, Andrew Sangster responded to three media enquiries this year:

- **1 News:** An editor from TVNZ reached out to ask if we have seen an increase in short sightedness in children over the past decade, particularly in recent years due to the pandemic lockdowns and an increase in screen time.
- **Fair Go:** Andrew wrote an article about the dangers of blue light for Fair Go. This article of research was then also used for a GP quarterly that was sent out to almost 3,000 general practitioners across the country.
- **Waikato Times/Stuff:** A reporter contacted NZAO asking about the link between epileptic seizures and eye strain, and how common it is for optometrists to see clients who need glasses which are worth more than what Work, and Income will fund.

GOVERNMENT HEALTH POLICIES

In the context of emerging outcomes of the Health and Disability Systems review we have seen:

- Consolidation of the Primary Health Alliance and The Federation of Primary Health Aotearoa
- A strengthening of commitment by the Government towards greater integration of primary and secondary health systems to provide for the health needs of our population and to listen and act on the voices of consumers, whānau, and communities in the design and delivery of health services
- The emergence of a nationwide approach to health with a service which provides consistent, high-quality health services for everyone, particularly groups who have been traditionally under-served.
- The creation of two key national health bodies
 1. Health NZ, to take responsibility for day-to-day running of our health system—into which all District Health Boards will be consolidated
 2. A new Māori Health Authority to ensure our health system delivers improved outcomes for Māori, and to directly commission tailored health services for Māori

Our advocacy approach is being guided by these future directions and focused on the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/75/L.108 committing the international community to eye care for people living with preventable sight loss by 2030. NZAO intends reminding our government that as a UN Member State New Zealand has welcomed the adoption of World Health Assembly resolution 73.4 entitled “Integrated people-centred eye care, including preventable vision impairment and blindness”, which includes making eye care an integral part of universal health coverage and implementing integrated people-centred eye care in health systems across the spectrum of promotive, preventive, curative, and rehabilitative services.

We participated in the first round of consultation in the Reviews for the Well Child Tamariki Ora Programme 2019 and have since commented on the evaluation of the recent literature on some of the new and emerging issues for preschool children in Domain 7 - Vision screening in infancy and childhood. Our advocacy will be reminding our government that UN member States have a responsibility to further strengthen the normative framework on disability, including the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with the pledge of leaving no one behind. An eye test for a child can be the difference between inclusion and or exclusion; A pair of prescription glasses, the difference

between access to information and seeking a livelihood and not. Corrective eye treatment, the difference between improved sight and total loss of sight.

Looking to the future, other topics that have been discussed and explored within NZAO are:

- Cpac
- Amniotic membranes.
- Epi on Collagen cross linking,
- Light /energy emitting therapies IPL acoustic.
- Smart contact lenses and devices.
- Drivers licence requirements for self-drive cars.
- Selective laser trabeculoplasty.
- New areas like Alzheimer's treatments and ocular manifestations,
- Non-surgical ocular plastics,
- Botox
- AI applications and their impact on or for optometry.

Eye Health Aotearoa

This year, EHA have set up a public facing website (www.eyehelthaotearoa.org.nz) and created their strategic plan 2021-2024. Their eight-point plan is affordable and achievable and targets high-risk communities who are unable to access eye health services, all the while striving to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

In 2021, EHA has become a member of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB).

As part of World Sight Day 2021, Eye Health Aotearoa is supporting the international “**Love Your Eyes**” campaign to raise awareness of the importance of eye health. This international campaign is aiming to have one million people around the world pledge to either have an eye test or start caring about their eyes.



EHA continue to regularly communicate with any, and all Government officials that will listen regarding prioritising eye health, as has been done, for example, with oral health in New Zealand – especially with the current focus on the health reforms. With the global pandemic and the work being done with the health reforms, it seems eye health has been deemed a low priority. EHA vow to continue to work towards producing data and research to force the Government to start listening, and to start making the required changes to the current eye health system in New Zealand.

Consolidation of the Primary Health Alliance and The Federation of Primary Health Aotearoa

After 15 years the alliance this year confirmed its plan to close in a decision to consolidate and to support the Federation of Primary Health – Kia hauora a Aotearoa. The NZAO was a member of the PHA since 2010 and was fully in favour of the joining up of these two main groups representing the interests of the wider primary health community. The PHA had paved the way through an early recognition that the only way to improve health outcomes is to work in collaboration with all providers in the sector and in anticipation of major health system changes, the wider federation can play a significant role in helping stakeholders to navigate the changes and to find the best ways to deliver equitable health outcomes.

The Federation has now been expanded to all areas of primary health including:

- Aged care
- Wellness
- Community health
- NGO's
- Mental health
- Māori, Iwi
- Disability
- Professional organisations

A new constitution was signed in May 2021 to redefine the combined body and the next AGM is scheduled for November 2021.

NZAO is of course a member of Federation of Primary Health Aotearoa

Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board (ODOB)

A memorandum of understanding between ODOB and NZAO has been signed as a means to specify mutually accepted expectations between our two organisations about how we will behave and communicate especially as we work towards common objectives.

INTERNATIONAL

Optometry Board of Australia (OBA)

Council receives regular communiques from the Optometry Board of Australia and together with the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board of NZ and the heads of schools, the Association participates in the Optometry Regulatory Review Group (ORRG) hosted annually by the OBA.

Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ)

The Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) is an independent external agency that assesses optometry programs in Australia and New Zealand. There are now eight optometry schools: Auckland, Melbourne, NSW, Queensland, Flinders (2009), Deakin (2012), Canberra (2018), and Western Australia (2021).

Established in 1996 with support of the optometrists' registration boards in Australia and New Zealand, the heads of the optometry schools, Optometry Australia, and the New Zealand Association of Optometrists. The OCANZ constitution provides for five members to be appointed as the owners of the company OCANZ Ltd. The members appoint the directors and the auditor, receive the annual report, and oversee the OCANZ constitution. They usually meet twice per annum.

Optometry Australia (OA)

The two associations share information on political, regulatory, and professional matters and mutually support the development of optometry in both countries.

OA and NZAO are core partners in the Journal of Clinical and Experimental Optometry (CXO), jointly working to ensure the journal has quality content and remains accessible to members. The CXO is considered one of the top three journals internationally and maintains a respectable impact factor of

1.335 with published papers highly sourced and referenced. NZAO members can access six issues annually. Additionally, NZAO members continue to benefit from the NZAO/OA agreement to circulate the PHARMA magazine and give New Zealand members access to online CPD credits from the related clinical quizzes. NZAO members receive four issues a year.

World Council of Optometry (WCO)

NZAO is a long-standing member of the World Council of Optometrists – their mission is to facilitate the development of optometry around the world and support optometrists in promoting eye health and vision care as a human right through advocacy, education, policy development and humanitarian outreach.

The WCO is the first and only optometric organization to have official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) and represents 250,000 optometrists from 75 member organizations in over 40 countries.

Asia Pacific Council of Optometry

The mission of the Asia Pacific Council of Optometry (APCO) is to facilitate the enhancement and development of primary eye and vision care by optometrists in the Asia and Pacific regions.

New Zealand is a founding member when it was set up in 1978.

SUBMISSIONS for 2020-21

Submissions, Consultations, and Advocacy

The 2020 – 2021 year was very much a year of COVID-19. Much of the Ministry of Health resources were redirected to the COVID-19 response. Despite the lack of calls for formal submissions the NZAO was able to successfully build on previous work to advocate for the profession in areas of importance. The major focus for the NZAO this year were COVID-19, the reform of the health sector and extended roles for optometry.

Health and Disability System Reforms

NZAO advocated for a seamless patient journey for eye health services that enabled and promoted a greater recognition and integration of optometry services.

NZAO participated in forums with both Primary Health Association and Federation of Primary Health Aotearoa. President Rochelle van Eysden was our primary representative and was fully involved in the merger process between the two bodies and ensured that an optometry perspective was heard. Of note is that the newly constituted Federation of Primary Health – Kia hauora a Aotearoa embraces a wide-angle view of primary health including community health, aged care, wellness services, NGO's, mental health, Māori health, disability services, and professional organisations.

COVID-19

A number of discussions and informal exchanges of information between the NZAO, the ODOB, and the NZAO insurers for professional indemnity culminated in the recognition of optometrists as COVID-19 vaccinators on completion of the mandatory IMAC training for clinicians.

Ministry of Health COVID-19 Response

The Association submitted a formal response to the discussion document entitled - Allied Health Delivering and Operating in an Active Pandemic, using Responsive Health and Disability Models of Practice.

Therapeutic Goods Bill

In prior years the NZAO devoted considerable time and effort in advocating for optometry access to medicines and biological treatments (non-surgical) for the eye within the new legislation at that time proposed as a replacement for the Medicines Act. This work was not wasted as further advocacy during the current year with the producers of Amniotek, the ODOB, and Medsafe has culminated in optometrists now being able to provide the denatured amniotic product to patients with the need for it.

Over 65's Free Annual GP Check and Eye Check

The Association communicated with key stakeholders on this issue to highlight the need for a comprehensive health response to the Government policy announced October 2017 of free annual health checks including eye health checks. Letters were sent to a wide range of MPs, consumer groups, Ministry of Health officials, and the Minister of Health. President Rochelle met with Minister for Seniors, Tracey Martin (NZ First), in September 2020 and was informed that any decision

regarding the annual eye check was on hold pending the outcome of the upcoming NZ Election in October 2020. NZ First was not part of the re-elected Labour Coalition Government, and the Over 65's Annual GP Check and Eye Check was scrapped in the 2021 Budget. Council noted that the Government announcement in 2020 worked out to around \$80 per patient to pay for both the annual GP check and eye check. After the GP had been paid, this might have left around \$20 to fund the eye check and DHB admin charge.

Well Child Tamariki Ora Programme

We participated in the first round of consultation in the Reviews for the Well Child Tamariki Ora Programme 2019 and have since had informal discussions with the authors of the report evaluating the recent literature.

Review and Update of the Privacy Act and NZ Government Refugee Program

Advice was given to the Ministry of Health regarding the review and update of the NZ Government Refugee Program and the need for eyesight checks and consideration of eye health issues.

Response to Dental Council Questions About Research Supporting Mandatory Eyesight Testing for Dentists

The NZAO was able to provide supporting information and although the Dental Council has not moved to make eyesight testing mandatory it has decided to add a question to the annual practising certificate application form for all practitioners: "Have you had an eye test by an optometrist or ophthalmologist in the past 2 years?". This will be for information gathering only, there will not be any consequence if a practitioner answers no. The Dental Council feels this will raise awareness of eye health and increase voluntary eye testing. They remain open to the idea of mandatory testing should a need for it become evident.

Submission Health Information Security Framework

A formal submission was sent in response to consultation by HISO on document HISO 10029:2015 Health Information Security Framework (HISF). The requirement to keep health information secure in transit and in place is taken very seriously by providers in both public systems and private. There are a large number of health professionals working in local practices large and small. Most are doing all they can to ensure health information they hold is both private and secure. However, NZAO is aware that malware and ransom attacks are becoming more prevalent and exploit previously unknown weaknesses in software both new and old. Unfortunately, cyber security insurance does not pay out on ransom costs and experience has shown that despite having taken all reasonable precautions based on current advice within the tech industry it is sometimes necessary to pay the ransom to get the files back.

ACC

Wilson Sue and Renee Edgar met twice with ACC to discuss funding for clients needing optometry services as part of post-concussion recovery and to raise the question of parity for optometry fees with those of general practice in cases where the service provided is comparable. Feedback was provided to ACC on its Provider Information Document – "Visual aids/therapies requests to support recovery from a concussion/mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI)". Wilson reported the thinking of ACC still appears to be that ACC clients needing more than one optometry consultation following an

accepted injury actually have a chronic physical or mental health problem (which would be paid from the DHB budget), but they are not having an ACC problem (which would be paid from the ACC budget). In addition, ACC explained that optometrists were not included in the updated 2021 Cost of Treatment Regulations because optometrists are not paid by regulated rates as part of the Accident Compensation, (Liability to Pay or Contribute to Cost of Treatment) Regulations 2003 (the Cost of Treatment Regulations). Optometrists are instead paid under the “appropriate agreed price if no regulations or contracts exist” provision of the Accident Compensation Act 2001!

Infection Surveillance Data Standard HISO 10058.1:2020

The Ministry of Health proposed a national system of infection surveillance to support the ability to monitor the occurrence of infections or an outbreak by key organisms. A minimum set of data was proposed in order to consistently support infection surveillance. The NZAO submitted some formal comments regarding the ability of optometrists to contribute to the data set if required, noting that optometrists do have CPNs (Common Practitioner Numbers) assigned by the Ministry, and the data requirements and definitions seemed both comprehensive and understandable.

Proposed amendments to the specified prescription medicines list for designated registered nurse prescribers in primary health and specialty teams

The New Zealand Association of Optometrists responded in general support of the expansion of the designated registered nurse prescribers list of medicines. However, we noted that the list is intended for both primary health and speciality teams and it is in this context that we outlined some reservations and concerns regarding the inclusion of olopatadine within the expanded list, particularly in primary health.

NZTA licensing review – medical standards

In prior years the NZAO was active in advising the continued need for vision standards and mandatory eyesight testing in relation to driver licensing regulations. Following the conclusion of the review we are pleased to note there is no change to visual standards. Current eyesight standards are unchanged, and drivers must prove that their eyesight is up to standard each time they apply for a new licence class or endorsement or renew their licence.

Consultation – Draft Accreditation Standards for Optical Dispensing Education Programme

In its response to the ODOB the NZAO indicated support for the continuation of high professional standards encouraged by ADONZ but suggested that it would seem necessary for the Board to document the risk of harm that optical dispensing poses and then articulate what is the minimum, safe standard of care required to eliminate that risk. Other professions registered under HPCAA are moving towards NZQA level 6 as the qualification required for first registration which provides a useful benchmark. The current qualification for dispensing opticians is NZQA level 4 (Cert IV in Optical Dispensing), and for optometrists it is NZQA level 8 (Bachelor of Optometry with endorsement to prescribe medicines appropriate to scope).

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

*New Zealand Association of Optometrists
For the year ended 30 June 2021*

Date of Formation

13 March 1930

Nature of Business

The mission of the New Zealand Association of Optometrists is to promote our members as the source of primary eye health and vision care in New Zealand; to hold fast to the ideals of high quality clinical practice; and to educate others about the roles and skills of optometrists. In achieving this purpose the NZAO will enhance the vision and eye health of New Zealanders; enable the public to make informed eye health choices; and provide our members with a creative, dynamic and affirmative organisation.

Address

Level 1, 173 Main Road, Tawa, Wellington

Chartered Accountant

Laurenson Chartered Accountants Limited Wellington

Bankers

Bank of New Zealand

Statement of Profit or Loss

New Zealand Association of
Optometrists For the year ended 30
June 2021

NOTES 2021 2020

Income

Subscriptions	467,884	379,506
Donations Received	65,112	124,609
Prof. Indemnity Insurance	227,507	218,476
Conference Income	-	77,006
CPD Recording Programme Income	-	31,033
Student PI Insurance	-	6,770
Continuing Education Income	-	3,515
Services Provided Income	13,038	-
Entrance Fees	40	2,167
Interest Received	18,639	25,496
MSD Wage Subsidy	-	21,089
Total Income	792,219	889,669

Trading Income

Pamphlets & Accessories	5,654	4,310
Total Trading Income	5,654	4,310

Cost of Sales

Opening Stock	11,002	14,474
Distribution Costs	-	265
Purchases - Accessories	50	-
Purchases - Pamphlets	749	-
Closing Stock	(10,925)	(11,002)
Total Cost of Sales	877	3,737

Gross Profit

4,777 573

Expenses

Donations Transferred to NERF	65,112	124,609
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Insurance Premiums

Prof. Indemnity Insurance Expense	179,070	148,974
Student PI Insurance	-	6,480
Total Insurance Premiums	179,070	155,454

Conference Expenses	-	49,951
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Personnel

ACC Levy	616	419
Human Resources	3,124	-
Recruitment	14,117	225
Remuneration	290,858	335,090
Staff Prof. Development	-	738
Total Personnel	308,715	336,472

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Notes to the Financial Statements.

MOORE
MARKHAMS

	NOTES	2021	2020
Occupancy			
Insurance		3,479	2,184
Outgoings		1,185	1,145
Rent - National Office		24,500	23,266
Storage		2,749	-
Total Occupancy		31,913	26,596
Office and Stationery			
Bank Charges		168	362
Credit Card Fees		954	-
Office Equipment		-	1,250
Photocopying		1,502	1,500
Services Provided - Merchant Fees		1,173	4,115
Stationery		1,155	1,508
Subscriptions & Publications		9,255	1,348
Total Office and Stationery		14,207	10,083
Information Systems			
Maintenance		3,401	1,231
Software & Small Equipment expense		8,071	2,548
Total Information Systems		11,472	3,778
Domestic Activities			
Domestic Activities		22,340	31,915
Mileage		1,878	993
Total Domestic Activities		24,219	32,908
International Activities			
A P C O		-	328
OCANZ		-	903
W C O		-	3,286
Total International Activities		-	4,517
Communication			
Courier		-	112
Phone Fax & Internet		2,864	4,055
Postages		1,351	2,509
Total Communication		4,215	6,676
Marketing and Public Relations			
Directories - Phone		2,050	5,315
PR Activities		-	100
Primary Eyecare GP Relations		7,546	4,577
Printing & Publishing		1,236	-
Save Our Sight		-	54,780
Website		1,074	-
Total Marketing and Public Relations		11,907	64,771

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Notes to the Financial Statements.

MOORE
MARKHAMS

	NOTES	2021	2020
Sponsorship			
Other Sponsorship		112	930
Total Sponsorship		112	930
External Fees			
Audit		8,766	10,216
Accounting		10,664	6,191
Total External Fees		19,430	16,407
Special Projects			
SP 2: Optometrist Development		870	-
SP 3: Pharmacy Liaison		180	270
SP 4: Optometry Student Development		12,194	3,990
SP 5: Pharma		10,755	5,590
SP 6: MIMS		-	5,950
SP 7: Journal Clin & Exp Optometry		39,883	49,401
SP 10: CAA Seminar		-	2,350
SP 11: Centre for Eye Health CPD		9,883	9,485
Total Special Projects		73,764	77,038
Continuing Education Expenses			
Student Activities		5,970	-
Total Continuing Education Expenses		5,970	-
Bad Debts		-	10,394
Depreciation		5,996	2,363
Amortisation		3,643	1,073
Loss on Disposal of Asset		27	-
Total Expenses		759,771	924,019
Net Profit / (Loss) Before Taxation		37,225	(33,777)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the Year		37,225	(33,777)

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Notes to the Financial Statements.

Statement of Changes in Equity

New Zealand Association of Optometrists

For the year ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
Members Funds		
Opening Balance	660,106	693,883
Increases		
Income for the Period	37,225	-
Total Increases	37,225	-
Decreases		
Loss for the Period	-	33,777
Total Decreases	-	33,777
Total Members Funds	697,331	660,106

Balance Sheet

New Zealand Association of Optometrists

As at 30 June 2021

	NOTES	30 JUN 2021	30 JUN 2020
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Bank			
BNZ Call Account		26,062	26,198
BNZ Current Account		87,951	168,528
BNZ Term Deposit - 3071		50,696	50,485
Total Cash and Bank		164,709	245,211
Term Deposits	8	343,046	393,325
Trade and Other Receivables		24,116	21,982
Prepayments		17,846	26,111
GST Receivable		2,376	-
Inventories		10,925	11,002
Income Tax Receivable	7	5,722	17,593
Accrued Interest		991	1,426
Total Current Assets		569,731	716,650
Non-Current Assets			
Term Deposits	8	229,343	222,083
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	10,265	11,614
Intangible Assets	5	9,211	5,427
Total Non-Current Assets		248,819	239,125
Total Assets		818,550	955,775
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables		27,000	24,123
Accruals		86,898	103,348
Income in Advance		7,321	261
Provision for Membership Rebate		-	165,578
GST Payable		-	2,359
Total Current Liabilities		121,219	295,669
Total Liabilities		121,219	295,669
Net Assets		697,331	660,106

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Notes to the Financial Statements.

MOORE
MARKHAMS

	NOTES	30JUN2021	30JUN2020
Equity			
Members Funds		697,331	660,106
Total Equity		697,331	660,106

For and on Behalf of NZAO Council:



President



Executive Officer

Date: 8/10/2021

Notes to the Financial Statements

New Zealand Association of Optometrists

For the year ended 30 June 2021

1. Reporting Entity

The Association is incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. It operates as a professional association.

2. Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the Association have been prepared as Special Purpose financial reports intended to inform members of the financial position and financial performance of the Association and should not be relied upon for any other purpose.

These special purpose financial reports have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out below.

3. Measurement Base

The accounting principles recognised as appropriate for the measurement and reporting of financial performance and financial position on a historical cost basis are followed by the Association. All transactions are reported using the accrual basis of accounting.

4. Statement of Accounting Policies

Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies. Policies have been applied on a consistent basis with those of the previous reporting period.

Revenue Recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for the sale of goods and services, to the extent it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the institute and revenue can be reliably measured.

Subscriptions

Subscription income represents the annual membership charge from the Association to members. Subscriptions are billed annually. Members' subscriptions are recognised as revenue on an accruals basis to match the period to which the subscriptions relate.

Donations

Donations received represents the NZAO Education and Research Fund (NERF) contributions received by the Association from members and then on paid to NERF. Donations are recognised as revenue on an accruals basis to match the period to which the donations relate.

Professional indemnity insurance

Professional indemnity insurance income represents sales for professional indemnity insurance to members. Sales are recognised as revenue in the accounting period they apply to.

Conference income

Conference income includes attendance fees and sponsorship for the Association's annual conference. Conference income is recorded as revenue when the function or event takes place."

CPD Recording Programme income

CPD Recording Programme Income is invoiced on a quarterly basis. The income is recognised as revenue in the accounting period to which it relates.

Other income

All other income is accounted for on an accruals basis and accounted for in accordance with the substance of the transaction.

Bank Accounts and Cash

Bank accounts and cash comprise cash balances and bank balances.

Stock on Hand

Stock on hand is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Investments

Investments, including shares and interest debt instruments are recorded at cost.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation has been provided on a straight-line basis so as to charge the net cost of assets over their estimated useful lives, assessed as follows:

Furniture and Fittings	5 Years
Office Equipment	5 Years
Display Stands	5 Years
Computers	3 Years

Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure directly attributable to the acquisition of assets, and includes the cost of replacements that are eligible for capitalisation when these are incurred.

Amortisation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life assessed as follows:

- Software 3 Years

Provisions

The Association recognises a provision for future expenditure (or reduction in revenue) of uncertain amount or timing when there is a present obligation (either legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, from which the probability that an outflow of future economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and the ability to determine a reliable estimate of the amount of the obligation both exist.

Income Tax

The Association is liable for income tax only on income received from outside its membership. Income tax expense recognises current obligations payable to Inland Revenue. No account is taken of deferred income tax.

Goods and Services Tax

All amounts are stated exclusive of goods and services tax (GST) except for accounts payable and accounts receivable which are stated inclusive of GST.

	2021	2020
5. Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets		
Computer Hardware		
Computer Hardware at cost	22,168	35,239
Accumulated depreciation - computer hardware	(12,743)	(24,295)
Total Computer Hardware	9,424	10,944
Display Stands		
Display Stands at cost	8,965	8,965
Accumulated depreciation - display stands	(8,965)	(8,965)
Total Display Stands	-	-
Furniture and Fittings		
Furniture and fittings at cost	18,715	17,872
Accumulated depreciation - furniture and fittings	(17,874)	(17,701)
Total Furniture and Fittings	841	170
Office Equipment		
Office Equipment at cost	7,100	7,500
Accumulated depreciation - office equipment	(7,100)	(7,000)
Total Office Equipment	-	500
Software - Intangible Assets		
Software at cost	19,680	43,386
Accumulated Amortisation - software	(10,469)	(37,959)
Total Software - Intangible Assets	9,211	5,427
Total Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets	19,476	17,041

This Year	Cost/Historical Cost	Net Additions (Disposals)	Accumulated Depreciation	Current year depreciation	Closing Carrying Amount
Asset Class					
Computer Hardware	58,945	(36,777)	8,466	4,277	9,424
Software	19,680	0	5,753	4,716	9,211
Display Stands	8,965	0	8,965	0	0
Furniture and Fittings	17,872	843	17,701	173	841
Office Equipment	7,500	(400)	6,627	473	0
Total	112,962	(36,334)	47,512	9,639	19,476

Last Year	Cost/Historical Cost	Net Additions (Disposals)	Accumulated Depreciation	Current year depreciation	Closing Carrying Amount
Asset Class					
Computer Hardware	24,203	11,036	24,295	697	10,944
Software	36,886	6,500	37,959	1,073	5,427
Display Stands	8,965	0	8,965	0	0
Furniture and Fittings	17,872	0	17,536	166	170
Office Equipment	7,500	0	5,500	1,500	500
Total	95,426	17,536	92,485	3,436	17,041

6. Related Parties

The Association provides administrative services to the New Zealand Optometrical Trust (NZOT), the NZAO Education and Research Fund (NERF) and Volunteer Ophthalmic Services Overseas Charitable Trust (VOSO) at no charge. Donations are received by NZAO and some expenses may be paid out by NZAO on behalf of NERF. Both Trustees of NERF and NZOT are also members of the NZAO Council. There were no other transactions with related parties. NZAO holds shares in a non-trading company, Total Vision Care Limited.

2021 2020

Council members were paid the following during the year

Geoff Sargent	1,885	2,290
Wilson Sue	4,500	5,000
Renata Watene	5,438	3,550
Rochelle van Eysden	9,898	5,863
Callum Milburn	4,075	2,000
Sita Thakersi	2,178	2,345
Chelsey Alexander	2,355	4,250
Total Council members were paid the following during the year	30,328	25,298

	2021	2020
7. Income Tax Expense		
Net Profit (Loss) per Financial Statements	37,225	(33,777)
Additions to Taxable Profit		
Expenses within the Membership	353,030	354,873
Total Additions to Taxable Profit	353,030	354,873
Deductions from Taxable Profit		
Income within the Membership	467,884	379,506
Losses Brought Forward	135,187	76,777
Total Deductions from Taxable Profit	603,072	456,283
Taxable Profit (Loss)	(212,817)	(135,187)
Taxation at 28%	-	-
Income Tax Expense	-	-
Deductions from Tax Payable		
Resident Withholding Tax Paid	5,722	7,637
Total Deductions from Tax Payable	5,722	7,637
Current Years Tax Payable / (Refund Due)	(5,722)	(7,637)
Prior Years Tax Outstanding		
Prior years tax outstanding	-	(9,956)
Total Prior Years Tax Outstanding	-	(9,956)
Total Income Tax Payable / (Refund Due)	(5,722)	(17,593)

Income tax losses available to be carried forward total \$212,817 (2020: \$135,187). The losses are subject to Inland Revenue Department confirmation.

	2021	2020
8. Term Deposits		
Current		
BNZ Term Deposit - 3061	111,146	109,492
BNZ Term Deposit - 3063	53,779	53,050
BNZ Term Deposit - 3066	71,904	71,079
BNZ Term Deposit - 3067	106,217	103,685
BNZ Term Deposit - 3068	-	56,019
Total Current	343,046	393,325
Non Current		
BNZ Term Deposit - 3057	61,490	59,690
BNZ Term Deposit - 3062	167,853	162,394
Total Non Current	229,343	222,083
Total Term Deposits	572,389	615,408

9. Contingent Liabilities

There are no known contingent liabilities at balance date (2020: \$Nil).

10. Events Occurring After Balance Date

There were no adjustable or non-adjustable events occurred after balance date but prior to the date when the financial statements were authorised for issue.

COVID-19

On 30 January 2020, the spread of novel Corona virus (COVID-19) was declared a public health emergency by the World Health Organisation. On 25 March 2020, New Zealand was placed into Alert Level 4 lockdown to combat the pandemic. In the months following, and up to the date the financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board, the country has cycled in and out of various Alert Levels, some of which have included further lockdowns and restrictions on citizen movement and activities for extended periods.

The Council will continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on the Association but at the date of signing this report the Council does not believe the entity has been or will be adversely financially affected by the pandemic. The known and expected impacts of the virus on the entity include:

The Association applied for and received \$21,088 in wage subsidies for three employees as part of the Ministry of Social Development's COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme.

The Council maintain the view that the Association has sufficient resources that it will continue to operate as a going concern provided operational targets are met.

11. Financial Commitments

The Association holds one non-cancellable premises lease as from 9 January 2020 for a period of three years.

	2021	2020
Financial commitments are:		
Not more than one year	24,500	24,500
More than one year	12,250	36,750
Total Financial commitments are:	36,750	61,250

There were no material capital commitments at balance date (2020: \$8,500).

NZAO Education and Research Fund – Annual Performance

**NZAO Education and Research Fund
Statement of Service Performance
“What did we do? For the year ended
30 June 2021**

Description of Entity's Outcomes

The provision of financial assistance including grants to advance the education and knowledge of eye and vision clinicians for the direct benefit of the health of the community.

Description and Quantification of the Entity's Outputs

Undergraduate extern scholarships	23
Doctoral Completion Award	1
Higher Degree Research Write Up Scholarship	1
Postdoctoral Research Plan Seed Funding	1
NZAO CPD Database Library Grant (jointly with School of Optometry, the University of Auckland)	1

**NZAO Education and Research Fund
Statement of Financial Performance
“How was it funded?” and “What did it cost?”
For the year ended
30 June 2020**

	2021	2020
Revenue		
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	65,112	124,609
Interest, dividends and realised investment gains	50,540	58,928
Profit on sale of investments	16,235	18,552
Total Revenue	131,887	202,090
Expenses		
Grants and donations made	109,007	30,948
Loss on sale of investments	1,631	17,362
Other expenses	359	4,600
Total Expenses	110,997	52,910
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	20,890	149,180

NZAO Education and Research Fund
Statement of Financial Position
'What the entity owns?' and 'What the entity owes?'
For the year ended
30 June 2020

	30 JUN 2021	30 JUN 2020
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank accounts and cash	317,673	86,223
Debtors and prepayments	30,112	44,209
Other Current Assets	4,982	8,458
Total Current Assets	352,767	138,890
Non-Current Assets		
Investments	1,312,405	1,508,394
Total Non-Current Assets	1,312,405	1,508,394
Total Assets	1,665,172	1,647,282
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Creditors and accrued expenses		3,000.00
Total Current Liabilities		3,000.00
Total Liabilities		3,000.00
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)	1,665,172	1,644,282
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	20,890	
Reserves	1,644,282	1,644,282
Total Accumulated Funds	1,665,172	1,644,282

New Zealand Optometrical Trust– Annual Performance

New Zealand Optometrical Trust
Statement of Service Performance
“What did we do? For the year ended
30 June 2020

Description and Quantification of the Entity's Outputs

	2021	2020
Undergraduate award	7	7
Undergraduate External Scholarships (Jointly with NZAO Education and Research Fund	23	12

New Zealand Optometrical Trust
Statement of Financial Performance
“How was it funded?” and “What did it cost?”
For the year ended
30 June 2020

	2021	2020
Revenue		
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue		2,028
Interest, dividends and realised investment gains	23,589	30,111
Profit on Sale of Investments	16,992	18,552
Total Revenue	40,580	50,690
Expenses		
Grants and donations made	10,900	8,500
Loss on Sale of Investments	2,388	17,362
Other expenses	309	4,601
Total Expenses	13,597	30,462
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	26,983	20,228

New Zealand Optometrical Trust
Statement of Financial Position
'What the entity owns?' and 'What the entity owes?'
For the year ended
30 June 2020

	30 JUN 2021	30 JUN 2020
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank accounts and cash	89,523	38,086
Debtors and prepayments	6,000	2,600
Other Current Assets		1,485
Total Current Assets	95,523	42,171
Non-Current Assets		
Investments	720,983	725,970
Total Non-Current Assets	720,983	725,970
Total Assets	816,506	768,141
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Creditors and accrued expenses		3,000
Other current liabilities	27,382	6,000
NERF Inter-Entity	3,000	
Total Current Liabilities	30,382	9,000
Total Liabilities	30,382	9,000
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)	786,125	759,141
Accumulated Funds		
Capital contributed by owners or members	200	200
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	26,983	
Reserves	758,941	758,941
Total Accumulated Funds	786,125	759,141

Statement of Accounting Policies

NZAO Education and Research Fund For the year ended 30 June 2021

'How did we do our accounting?'

Basis of Preparation

The entity has elected to apply PBE SFR-A (NFP) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting - Accrual (Not-For-Profit) on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses equal to or less than \$2,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

Goods and Services Tax

The entity is not registered for GST. Therefore, all amounts are stated inclusive of GST (if any).

Income Tax

NZAO Education and Research Fund is wholly exempt from New Zealand income tax having fully complied with all statutory conditions for these exemptions.

Bank Accounts and Cash

Bank accounts and cash in the Statement of Cash Flows comprise cash balances and bank balances (including short term deposits) with original maturities of 90 days or less.

Scholarships and Awards

Scholarships and awards are accounted for on an accrual basis.

Interest

Interest has been accounted for on an accrued basis

Investments

Investments, including shares and interest debt instruments are recorded at cost.

Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies. Policies have been applied on a consistent basis with those of the previous reporting period.

Brunton Cropp & Co Limited

Chartered Accountants

Lower Hutt

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 2020



The 90th annual general meeting of New Zealand Association of Optometrists Inc. held at the Rydges, Wellington Airport, on 16th October 2020 commenced at 6.28pm.

The meeting was attended in person by the president, Rochelle van Eysden, the vice president, Chelsey Alexander, councillors Callum Milburn, Sita Thakersi, Wilson Sue and 17 members. Councillors Geoff Sargent, Renata Watene and 33 members participated via ZOOM. This made a total of 57 members plus two proxy votes.

It was established that a quorum of fifty members had been achieved.

Also, in attendance in person was the executive officer, Siobhan Molloy, and Grant Firth, office manager.

1. Welcome

The chair invited Renata Watene to open the AGM with a karakia.

The meeting was chaired by Rochelle van Eysden who welcomed all members to the meeting. She noted that online attendance made this a unique annual general meeting.

2. Apologies

Nil

3. Proxies

Two proxy forms were received.

MOVED that the following proxies be accepted:

Wilson Sue for Bruce Keighley

Wilson Sue for Alison Chan

Rochelle van Eysden/Chelsey Alexander Proposer seconder? CARRIED

4. Obituaries

Nil

5. Approval of proceedings of 89th annual general meeting

Noted that the minutes of the 2019 annual general meeting of the New Zealand Association of Optometrists Inc. held at the Napier Convention Centre, Hawkes Bay on 19th October 2019, had been circulated to all members.

MOVED that the minutes of the 2019 annual general meeting be approved as a true and accurate record.

Andrew Sangster/ Kevin O'Connor CARRIED

Matters Arising

Nil arising

6. Presentation and adoption of the 2020 annual report

Noted that the annual report for the 2019 - 2020 year had been circulated to all members.

Matters arising

Nil

MOVED that the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2020 be approved and adopted.

Wilson Sue / Richard Shanks CARRIED

7. Presentation and adoption of the 2020 annual financial statements

Noted that the annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020, had been circulated to all members.

The Chair opened the meeting to discussion on the annual financial statements.

Anne Matheson asked why membership revenue took such a drop from \$513,000 to \$379,000?

Wilson Sue responded stating that it was because of the subs rebate. The context is COVID 19 – he noted that there was a precedent with the 2011 Christchurch earthquake. A Council decision was made for last financial year to apply a rebate of \$340 for all those ordinary members who paid a full (100%) sub and a rebate of \$78 for those who paid a reduced 70% sub.

He noted that the subscription for the current financial year will also be reduced in recognition of the ongoing impact of COVID-19. This would mean all members would pay a reduced sub for two years. The budget reflects this change.

Jagrut Lallu asked why professional indemnity for students was so much lower than in the previous financial year. The executive officer responded that this was a result of COVID-19 and that no students were able to travel overseas for their placements.

Jagrut further asked, how are council members reimbursed – why the variation between councillors? It was noted that Council members do not receive a salary, get reimbursed with a meeting fee of \$500+GST per meeting day which was a locum day rate but did not cover the cost for a practice owner.

He further asked about term deposits and what was the process. It was noted that NZAO uses accrual accounting, and on maturation, most term deposits get reinvested – and there has been a downward change in interest rates.

Jagrut also posed a question about the annual report and noted Dr Frederikson went to a meeting with the SOVS Board of Studies – however the report only stated the purpose of the meeting but no content. The rationale for this was noted that the meeting is confidential to The University of Auckland. There was clarification given between the SOVS Board of Studies meeting (UoA) and the Optometry Advisory Meeting (NZAO, SOVS, ODOB).

Jagrut asked for clarification on the NZAO strategic goals as he thought a key focus area might be optometric advocacy and asked about the standards.

The Council response was that the reference was to clinical standards and that the context is patient protection by ensuring that clinical standards are a high standard. The strategic goals are aspirational. NZAO wants to keep public confidence in the profession, and we aim to support members to achieve these higher standards.

Jagrut thanked the Council for all the work they do – as they need to meet the public needs and member expectations and he acknowledged the incredibly difficult job.

MOVED that the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020 be approved and adopted.

Anne Matheson/Andrew Black CARRIED

8. Council officers for the ensuing year

There were two vacancies for Council positions and NZAO received two nominations. The president, Rochelle van Eysden being satisfied that the nomination process for vacant Council positions was concluded declared the successful candidates to be Sita Thakersi and new Council member, Hadyn Treanor.

She acknowledged Geoff Sargent for his long service to NZAO and thanked him.

Sita and Hadyn will join the sitting Council members, Chelsey Alexander, Renata Watene, Rochelle van Eysden, Callum Milburn, and Wilson Sue.

Ms. van Eysden also advised that Council had met prior to the AGM and that the following officers had been elected for 2020/2021:

President:	Rochelle van Eysden
Vice President:	Chelsey Alexander

This was greeted with applause.

9. Honorary members for the ensuing year.

Ms. van Eysden also advised that the following honorary members had been nominated for re-appointment:

Associate Professor Rob Jacobs

Professor Michael Kalloniatis

Dr Lesley Frederikson

This was greeted with applause.

10. Appointment of auditors

MOVED that Moore Markhams be appointed as the Association's auditors for the ensuing year.

Wilson Sue/Callum Milburn CARRIED

11. Setting of subscriptions for 2020 – 2021

Members were advised that the budget for the 2020 – 2021 financial year had been circulated earlier in the week. It was noted that there will be a rebate for those who have paid 70% or more of the full subscription for 2020.

Wilson also noted that we have drafted the 2022 budget because of COVID – so are providing a rebate for the 2020 year, and a reduction in 2021 year but in 2022 it is budgeted to return to the usual membership subscription rate.

Andrew Sangster commented on the reserves for a rainy day – and asked if the rainy day has arrived. Wilson agreed it is raining and noted that is what the plan is – we have spread the loss over two years and recognise the fact that Council just like all other members would like to pay less for subs this year.

MOVED that the subscription for the 2020/2021 year is \$969.25 (excluding GST) or \$1097.39 (including GST) for ordinary members with appropriate reductions for the other classes of membership.

Andrew Sangster/Richard Shanks CARRIED

12. Motions for changes to rules as circulated

The chair noted that to ensure voices were heard and that the meeting kept to time she would call upon each of the motion's proposers to briefly talk to the motion (max 2 mins). Then questions and statements that follow are limited to three speakers FOR the motion and three speakers AGAINST the motion – each to speak alternatively (max 2 mins).

It was established we did have a quorum of 57 members.

Motion 1: Removing requirement for a nominator and seconder:

MOVED that the Rule 4 (b) (i) and Rule 8 (b) are amended to remove the requirement for a nominator and seconder prior to a new member admission to NZAO.

Proposer: Chelsey Alexander
Secunder: Callum Milburn

Chelsey Alexander spoke for the motion and noted that the advantages of dropping the requirement for a proposer and seconder is to streamline the membership application

process and make it easier for potential members to fill in an electronic member application and submit it immediately without needing to find members to support their application.

Wilson Sue spoke against the motion. He likes that new members know other optometrists, even if the national office needs to introduce a potential new member.

Callum Milburn noted that most associations have moved away from using nominators and seconders.

Anne Matheson indicated she would be quite uncomfortable if someone joined without any connection with another member.

Paul Hey raised another view against the motion, he concurred with Wilson's views. From a practical point of view moving online – it can be an electronic approval rather than an in-person signature.

Callum thought it would be a way to speed up access to membership – one less barrier. We are all professionals and can all be welcomed into the association in an easier way.

34 FOR and 16 AGAINST with four abstentions

Rochelle van Eysden/Callum Milburn CARRIED

Motion 2: Fixing membership subscriptions in advance of the financial year start

MOVED that Rule 12 (a) is amended so that the timing of the annual member subscription is set in advance of the financial year to which it pertains to.

Proposed new Rules wording:

RULE 12 - FEES

(b) All Ordinary, Retired and Student Members shall pay an annual subscription of such amount or amounts as shall from time to time be fixed by the NZAO Council in advance of each financial year.

Proposer: Rochelle van Eysden

Seconder: Geoff Sargent

Callum Milburn spoke for the motion and noted this always seemed a bit quirky and was highlighted as an issue in our review. He noted that currently the annual membership subscription is fixed by the membership at the AGM on recommendation from the NZAO council. This occurs four months after the start of the financial year and delays income for the Association and makes budget planning for members more challenging. Enabling Council to set the annual membership subscription in advance of the financial year – with not only the information of how the Association is tracking in the current financial year but also with knowledge of its strategic objectives for the coming financial year will mean members and employers will know in advance of the financial year what the subscriptions will be.

Callum added that if members are invoiced at the very start of the financial year, it would also be easy for the association to enable members to opt to pay in easy monthly, quarterly, or six-monthly instalments which some members might find advantageous.

Paul Hey spoke against the motion, he thought it was unreasonable and fundamentally undemocratic to not have members approve the membership subscription.

Rochelle clarified that members would still approve any subscription change – next year members would approve two years of member subs and then annually thereafter.

Paul Hey suggested the motion needed amending to ensure that it would be approved by members at an annual general meeting.

Paul Hey moved an amendment:

RULE 12 - FEES

(b) All Ordinary, Retired and Student Members shall pay an annual subscription of such amount or amounts as shall from time to time be fixed by the NZAO Council in advance of each financial year at the preceding annual general meeting.

48 members FOR and two AGAINST

Rochelle van Eysden/Geoff Sargent CARRIED

Paul Hey also suggested we review the other paragraphs in Rules 12 at a future date.

Motion 3: Lesser subscription for DHB/SOVS Ordinary Members.

Pursuant to Rule 12 – Fees (d) it is MOVED that a lesser subscription of 70% of the Ordinary Member subscription be payable by Ordinary Members who hold a full-time salaried position with a government funded Hospital environment, Government Department, teaching institution or other regular approved employer, and who do not derive any other income from the practise of optometry.

Proposer: Renata Watene

Seconder: Geoff Sargent

Wilson noted that historically, lower subscriptions had been set for members who work in a hospital or at the university because at that time the salaries for these positions were considerably lower than for community optometrists.

The proposal to change this to 70% of the Ordinary Member subscription is to reflect current salary improvements in these positions but retaining an acknowledgement of the differentiation in contributions towards continuing professional development.

Michael White asked what the Rule originally was – and Callum noted that it only stated a lesser amount and that the amount had varied over the years.

Richard Johnson spoke against the motion. He speaks only for hospital staff; and states that the salary is around \$75,000 and he does not know if this is comparable with private practice. Hospitals do not reimburse professional association fees and hospital staff are also self-funding their CPD – Richard propose this motion that is further researched before it is passed.

Renata Watene asked for a clarification about what is the amount this subscription is changing from. She also noted that it seems equitable with other like health professions.

Rochelle noted the current value about 28.8% of a full sub – at \$390 inc GST.

It was noted with the motion, an application for financial hardship application would still be possible.

Samantha Simkin– noted from the perspective of a research fellow, they do not have a permanent job and are unable to get any reimbursements for subs, APC and CPD. She noted this might be different for other university positions.

Jagrut Lallu wanted further clarification. Rochelle noted the motion is suggesting a consistent specific percentage of the full membership subscription – but still a lesser amount. Historically the subscription for hospital and university staff has been variable and lower. This motion would make it consistent and easier administratively.

Andrew Sangster suggested the 70% is a bit high but 28% was also too low.

Peter Grimmer suggested there is not enough information on the table, and we should shelve it and bring it back to another meeting.

Wilson noted that the 70% figure was to be consistent with those who work less than 20 hours but more than 8 hours per week.

Richard spoke again and concurred with Andrew Sangster and Peter Grimmer – and said is happy to be involved in research.

Renata Watene / Geoff Sargent LOST unanimously

13. General business

The chair invited members to raise any items of general business.

Andrew Sangster expressed his appreciation for the long hours Council have put in over the last year, putting out advisories and consulting with the Board.

This was greeted with applause.

Richard Johnson concurred with Andrew Sangster. He commented on the money put aside for over 65s – with AMD and glaucoma screening in the 2020 Government budget and what NZAO will do now. The president, Rochelle van Eysden noted that there has been communication with both the Ministry of Health and the minister – and the plan currently is for nurse led screening in GP practices. She acknowledged that there needed to be follow up after the election once we are clear who to talk to.

Eleisha Dudson raised a discussion around new graduates for next year and concern about all the optometrists who may not be moving to Australia.

It was noted that the NZAO Council met many soon to be graduated Part V students at the NZAO transition to work seminar and many have already signed contracts. It was further noted that it is still possible to go and work in Australia. There did not appear to be a concern for next year.

Renata Watene raised that we need to ensure if anyone is feeling vulnerable that they are pointed toward the Association – that is what we are here for. We are the place to go – we are the voice of our profession.

Rochelle thanked everyone for attending the AGM.

Renata closing the meeting with a karakia

The meeting ended at 7.35pm