

NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF OPTOMETRISTS



THE 2019- 2020

Annual Report

90TH ANNUAL REPORT AND ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING





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.

The year under review 2019 – 2020, has been a full and challenging one for us all.

Our annual report provides an overview of our activities and achievements for the year.

NZAO COUNCIL 2019 - 2020

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 Geoff Sargent	Wellington
	Ms Sita Thakersi	Lower Hutt
	Ms Renata Watene	Auckland
Executive Officer:	Siobhan Molloy	Wellington

Message from the President



The last year has been a year of two halves. We had a “business as usual” first six months before Covid-19 saw unforeseeable changes for all of us in the subsequent months.

The whole country has been challenged by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and for optometry, while we were an essential service, we have all suffered significant impacts on our business cash flows. This threat to our business viability on top of concern about the personal safety of ourselves and our families and friends has been overwhelming for many of us.

The NZAO acknowledge and appreciate the sacrifices of our members over this time. We know that being unable to provide many of our usual services to our patients was extremely frustrating at times.

A positive outcome of the Covid-19 restrictions has been an opportunity for closer collaboration with ODOB and the Ministry of Health. We all worked extremely hard to ensure we had the most accurate information sent out to you as quickly as possible as the situation evolved. Relationships with Optometry Australia, their associations and Board were also strengthened as we communicated regularly to share information and experiences to assist each other in our response to the pandemic.

In 2019 the NZAO developed a new strategic plan for the upcoming five years. This resulted in the refining of our seven strategic objectives into three key areas of focus: Advancing Skills, Growth and Sustainability, Visibility and Advocacy.

We had a very successful conference in Napier in October 2019. The venue was stunning, and the educational content was highly rated by attendees. As always, this also provided an exceptional opportunity for social interactions with peers. We have also partnered with the Centre for Eye Health for online courses and with Optometry Australia for access to their Institute of Clinical Excellence which provides opportunity for members to meet their CPD requirements in a remote format.

A review has been made of the NZAO office IT systems. Some of the changes are future proofing our systems and some will be more obvious to our members. One of the exciting developments is the design of a new NZAO website to make it easier to navigate and more user friendly and we cannot wait to launch this in the next financial year.

As always, the NZAO has been advocating for our profession and making submissions on relevant items, the details of which are in this report. We work hard throughout the year in a number of groups to maintain the visibility of optometrists as the leading provider of primary eye health care. This allows us to communicate with other primary care providers, politicians, and other stakeholders in eye care to ensure our role in the health system is acknowledged and considered.

This year has seen a turnover of national office staff members Jo Lucre and Karthi Ilangovan and the gain of Heather Patterson as our membership and communications officer. With the impacts of Covid-19 coinciding with the staffing and IT changes at NZAO national office it has been a very challenging year. I want to acknowledge our executive officer, Siobhan Molloy and office manager, Grant Firth for their exceptional contribution to the NZAO in these trying times.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the Council members, and other members engaged in audit and committee work for all their hard work and their ongoing commitment throughout this eventful year.

The continuing presence of Covid-19 suggests that the coming year will also be tumultuous, and we will all need strength and resilience for some time yet. Please remember to look after yourselves and each other and speak up if you feel things are becoming overwhelming.

We are all in this together.

“Kua tawhiti kē tō haerenga mai, kia kore e haere tonu.
He tino nui rawa o ōu mahi, kia kore e mahi nui tonu.

You have come too far, not to go further.
You have done too much, not to do more.”

Tā Hemi Henare (Ngāti Hine, 1989)

Kia kaha



Rochelle van Eysden
President of the New Zealand Association of Optometrists Incorporated.

WHAT HAPPENED AT NZAO DURING COVID-19

In late 2019 and early 2020, COVID-19 for most everyone in New Zealand was happening on the news in China or Italy or Spain. While several NZAO members still had expired boxes of facemasks that they had purchased many years earlier because of previous avian flu/SARS pandemic outbreak warnings, COVID-19 was not something that was having an impact on New Zealand-initially.

With the evolving situation, members were kept informed via the Enews:

- Enews 28 January “Coronavirus – what you need to know” with update from the MoH in summary ‘The risk is low’.
- Enews 2 February “Coronavirus update from WHO” and steps to take when you see a patient.
- Enews 14 February “Coronavirus and employment law” but in hindsight the time to have stocked up on tinned food, hand sanitiser and toilet paper.
- Enews 6 March “Optometry specific information related to COVID-19” following the first recorded NZ COVID-19 case on 28 Feb.

Then sentiment changed rapidly as confirmed case numbers in New Zealand began to look like an exponential curve. The New Zealand border was closed to non-citizens and non-permanent residents on 19 March. The NZAO council started working on an information document on what optometry in practice would be like under COVID-19.

- Enews 20 March “COVID-19 optometry practice protocol”

On 21 March, the Government announced the four-level alert system and we were on level 2. The announcement on 23 March Monday afternoon that we were now at level 3 and going to lockdown level 4 on 25 March took everyone by surprise.

Optometry, like dentistry, was not classified as an essential service. This meant all practices had 48 hours’ notice to shut their doors for at least 4 weeks. What did this mean? The phone queue to the MoH to get answers to these questions was in the hundreds and the email system was clogged. The Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board (ODOB) were just as surprised and information hungry as NZAO, as were all the other responsible authorities and professional bodies.

Council had around 4 hours in between eye exams and getting their practices ready for shut down to draft and verify a notice to members that would produce safe outcomes for optometrists, staff, and patients.

- Enews 23 March “Optometry Practice Close Down COVID-19”

What else did NZAO do?

Providing guidelines and timely information:

NZAO developed guidelines for each Alert Level, together with other significant resources related to coronavirus research, PPE supply, infection control, social media tiles and posters plus business information to support practices. It is even more important now that we all look after our mental health, so links and resources were and continue to be frequently promoted in the COVID-19 hub, and via the TVC and ENEWS.

All this information was brought together in a COVID-19 hub on our website.

Working in collaboration with others in virtual bubbles

The NZAO council and national office have worked closely with stakeholders. There was frequent and close liaison with ODOB as we aimed to ensure members had the most current and correct information.

There was active advocacy to urge the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to recognize optometrists as essential workers as well as regular engagement with the Ministry of Health. A wide review of all available international literature deemed optometry to have increased risk for practitioners due to the proximity to patients and the use of techniques that could disperse the virus further. Several ophthalmologists internationally have unfortunately contracted and since passed from COVID-19. Our recent experience in New Zealand has seen several nurses contract COVID who had full PPE and hospital infection prevention protocols. Sadly, the loss of a distinguished GP and former Cook Island Prime Minister Dr Joe Williams is a sobering reminder of the risk we face as health practitioners.

The president continues to meet via video conferencing with our Australian colleagues to share information.

Reallocating resources:

An early decision was made to postpone the annual conference. International speakers from USA and Australia would not be able to travel easily to NZ. It became rapidly apparent that regardless of what Government restrictions were in place later in the year our industry will have been seriously challenged financially. It was felt that both members and our supporting suppliers would struggle to prioritise conference attendance in this year.

Remote learning became even more important so the NZAO together with ODOB negotiated with Optometry Australia to enable free access to their online learning CPD portal: Institute of Excellence initially for six months. This offer now extends until 31 May 2021.

There was a postponement to the due dates for CAA credentialing renewals while it was impossible for members to gather the information required – this process has now restarted.

Following the 2011 Christchurch Earthquake, Canterbury members were offered a subscription rebate for the current year, a reduced subscription for the following year, and a reduced annual conference registration fee. Following 2020 COVID-19, similar support for all members is being budgeted for 2021.

Being contactable:

NZAO staff and council worked throughout the initial lockdown periods to ensure members had both telephone and email contact and received useful up to date information about the various Alert Levels and their impact on optometry practice.

Members participated in a survey to share their experiences during Alert Levels 3 and 4 – on the next page is a summary of the key results.

	65 respondents 49% employers 43% employees 8% self-employed - Almost 10% of the active working membership
 Impacts on optometry practice	75% of optometrists stopped work altogether 66% of practices provided acute triage/telehealth 45% of practices have reassessed the way that they practise optometry specifically: - telehealth - phone triage - infection control
 Financial impacts	91% businesses experienced a more than 75% drop in revenue - Post lock down almost 80% of businesses have returned to normal - A few individuals are experiencing reduced hours and pay cuts - A few individuals had to use up leave during the lock down
 Impacts on staffing	52% of businesses reviewed staffing levels 48% made no changes to staffing levels - If a return to lockdown businesses anticipated: - that staff would be asked to take leave or reduce hours (80%) - between 1-5 staff might be made redundant (49%)
 Assistance packages	100% businesses benefited from the COVID-19 wage subsidy - Over 80% had business rent or mortgage relief - Under 40% accessed the small business cashflow scheme - Small % access personal rent/mortgage and extended wage subsidy
 Business practice changes	- More flexible staffing (and in different locations) - Holding of financial reserves - Policy for staff with sniffs/coughs... no longer 'soldiering on' ... - Policy on customers with sniffs/coughs ... - Increased paperless way of working
 NZAO most valued resources	- Communication in all forms: - ENEWS updates - COVID-19 guidance for each level - COVID-19 resource hub for all related information - Online CPD
 How am I feeling	- Over 71% expressed they were not feeling anxious at all. 29% are expressing some degree of feeling anxious - Minimum numbers have accessed mental health services

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

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The NZAO provides for impactful professional development and learning opportunities for members.

Annual Conference

The key annual event is the **NZAO annual conference** – this year we celebrated the 89th annual coming together of optometrists. With around 96 registrants plus speakers, sponsors, NZAO personnel, and partners in attendance this event provided a key opportunity for members to deepen their knowledge and achieve their continuing professional development (CPD) credits for the year. This year the conference was hosted in Napier on Friday 18 and Saturday 19 October.

Member Jack Crawford summarises the NZAO's 89th annual conference's key highlights:

This year's event continued the recent theme of short, pithy, and salient educational contributions by a variety of presenters. The fact they all hailed from either NZ or Australia; underscores the coming of age of the profession of optometry in the Antipodes.

Wilson Sue and In-Hae Park melded together a programme that was none the lacking for the absence of big-name speakers ex USA or anywhere else for that matter.



President, Rochelle van Eysden with Jack Crawford.

- Dr Allison McKendrick of Melbourne commenced proceedings by reminding us that, although application of the OCT to optometric practice is pretty much imperative these days, it has a high false positive rate, and if this factor is not compensated for, over-referral is inevitable which can only add to waiting lists in the public ophthalmology sector; furthermore, this scenario disadvantages the 'rapid progressors' who are less likely to be seen in a timely fashion.



Speakers from left - Renita Martis, Joyce Mathan, Angelica Ly, Divya Perumal, Jack Phu, Allison McKendrick and Rebecca Findlay.

- Dr Anjelica Ly, of Sydney, who has a special interest in maculopathy, spoke on the need to apply evidence-based knowledge to the risk of AMD progression. She emphasised that drusen regression is bad!

- Jack Phu presented on the latest research on the comparative saliency of various computerised visual field technologies – this presentation was of considerable interest.

Richard Johnson presented a quiz-type presentation featuring 10 interesting (one might say perverse) cases of ocular pathology. There were interesting and intriguing contributions by Joe Wang (Sydney) on Eyes4Everest (self-explanatory), Renita Martis (Auckland) on the molecular pathways involved in the aging process of the eye (way more interesting than you might have thought), Rebecca Findlay (Auckland) on the efficacy of the B4SC vision screening programme in detecting amblyopia and refractive error (food for thought), and finally, Eleisha Dudson (Wellington), an enthusiastic proponent of Ortho K for myopia control, who discussed this issue from the perspective of one who is up-to-date with the ethics, science, and pitfalls of the methodology. Kiri Rikihana, lawyer, and ex ODOB lay member, spoke compellingly on the matter of cultural competency. She used by way of example, the difficulty her own dyslexic daughter has experienced in terms of appropriate access and opportunity to ensure a fulfilled life. Kiri was one of the many speakers who enlivened the topic at hand. To cap off Friday's session, NZAO president, Rochelle van Eysden, introduced us to 'Survivor Napier', this being in the form of a rapid-fire quiz on matters ocular and general. We were asked to form teams, with a prize for best team name. A team of intellectual Wellington swots picked off the first prize.

Annette Morgan and Anne Matheson generously share their first prize winnings with four other optometrists who happened to be sitting at the same table.



- The full-length Saturday session did not disappoint either, although it left me wishing badly (courtesy of Dr Ly) that in my next life, I will not be a high myope! Oh, woe. We learned about the difficulty in treating keratoconus in the Down syndrome population (Joyce Mathan, Auckland), and, of the difference between visual illusions and hallucinations (Dr Allison McKendrick). Ever heard of 'visual snow'? Or of 'palinopsia'? Gisborne ophthalmologist, Dr Graham Wilson presented an intriguing overview of some of the many wins of the long-running 'Dunedin Study', followed by Jack Phu speaking on angle closure spectrum disease. Despite the advances in imaging, gonioscopy is still king. Dr Divya Perumal (ex-optometrist, now ophthalmologist) presented an extremely dynamic and engaging discourse on glaucoma differential diagnosis, memorable in so many ways!

- Finally, the attendees split into three groups for workshop sessions. I was fortunate to be a participant in Dr Ly's foray into multi-modal imaging of macular disease - differential diagnosis par excellence. The other two streams focused on practitioner interactive case reports and a glaucoma peer review session.

From left: Andrew Sangster, Eleisha Dudson, Siobhan Molloy, Annette Morgan, Anne Matheson, Frances Misich and Courtenay Le Cheminant.



The whole was a great learning experience.

As for Napier – what a great place for a collegial meeting. A wonderful venue, right on the waterfront – comfortable auditorium, good sound system, everything timed to perfection, scrumptious food, and oodles of adjacent accommodation.

The conference wound up with a yummy dinner, Eric (and band)'s music ... and the World Cup rugby!

Thanks to all involved in crafting this conference, and to the sponsors who helped support us to make it happen.

The annual conference planning for 2020 got underway with the venue being Christchurch however it became necessary to postpone to 2021.

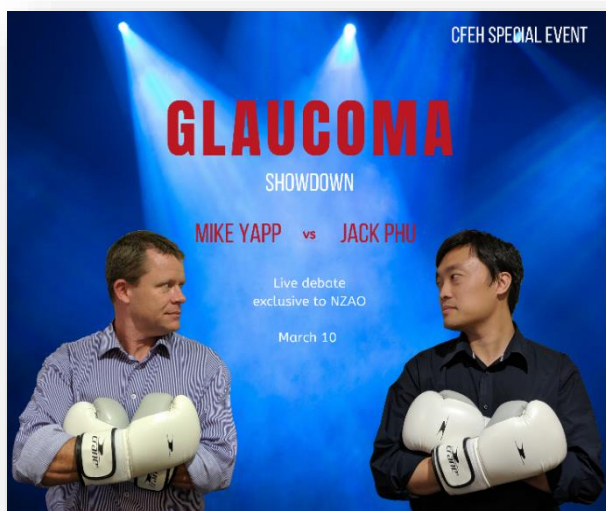


CPD Online

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).

A further collaboration this year saw CFEH bring members an exclusive live webinar debate: *The Glaucoma Red-Flag Showdown*. Over 150 NZAO members registered to find out more about the latest controversies that exist within the areas of glaucoma diagnosis and management. The debate-style presentation was delivered by two of



CFEH's leading clinician educators Dr Jack Phu and Michael Yapp.

- NZAO provides its own catalogue of online courses (number = 18) as well as publishing a quarterly 30-question multiple choice quiz related to each PHARMA publication.
- In conjunction with ODOB, NZAO negotiated free access for all registered optometrists to Optometry Australia's Institute of Excellence up until 30 November 2020. OA's Institute offers a comprehensive range of online learning opportunities.
- Each fortnight, a Learning for Vision case study is published in an ENEWS sent to all members.



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.

PUBLICATIONS



Keeping members informed about NZAO affairs, regulatory issues, clinical items of interest, and CPD opportunities is uppermost. This is achieved via a variety of media.

Digital Total Vision Care
The **Total Vision Care (TVC)** newsletter has gone digital. Members continue to receive 11 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% - however at the tail end of the year we reformatted how we send out the TVC and have found that the average open rate has jumped to 65%.

E-News

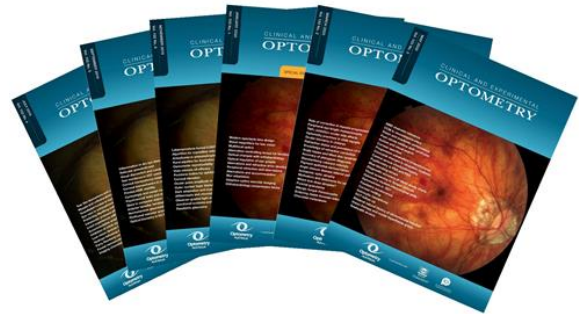
The **E-News publications** continues to be distributed to our members on a fortnightly basis. The E-News has a significantly high open rate of over 71% with updates on professional indemnity insurance and COVID-19 guidance proving the most clicked on links.

This year our E-News significantly increased as members were regularly kept up to date with crucial guidelines about practising optometry at the various Alert Levels plus links to important announcements affecting businesses, useful social media and poster tiles, and infection control.

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. NZAO members receive complimentary online access to CXO.



PHARMA

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

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

Credentialing is defined as the process whereby health professionals are assessed by their colleagues as competent to undertake a prescribed scope of practice within a specific work environment.

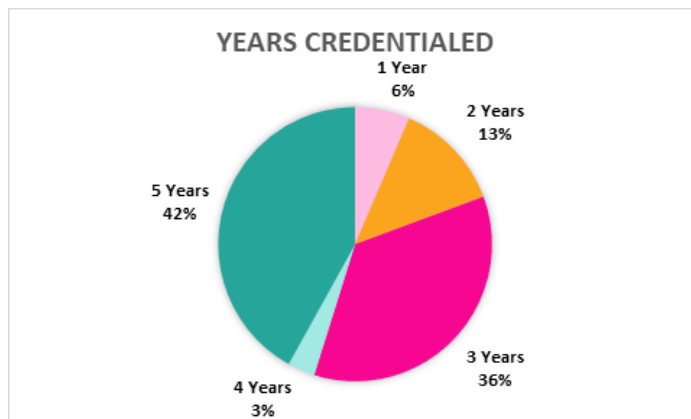
The prime focus is patient safety, but it also provides a mechanism of improving accountability and enhancing public confidence.

It is therefore a key quality and risk management tool.

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 aims to enhance and promote aviation safety through effective safety regulation and by encouraging the industry to deliver high standards of safety. NZAO facilitates 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). Nineteen members participated in the seminar hosted in early March.

A meeting was held with Claude Preitner, Geoff Sargent and Siobhan Molloy to review the provision of services by optometrists of CAA special Eye reports to ensure the CAA remained confident of the service provided, and some areas of potential improvement for communication between the CAA and NZAO members were discussed.



As of 30 June, 62 members are credentialed to provide eye and vision reports for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

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 to the left.

Low vision accreditation

As of 30 June, six members are credentialed as low vision providers. NZAO continues to offer members an opportunity to be credentialed in low vision.

A low vision web page has been set up for public look-up of LV credentialed optometrists and other relevant resources for LV consumers.

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.

These charitable trusts are very cost effective, pay no fundraising fees, and donations are not used to pay administration costs or salaries. NZAO membership annual subscription includes a donation to NERF.

For the period 2008 to 2020, almost one and a half million dollars has been awarded from the combined resources of NERF and NZOT (\$1,078,000) and NZOVRF (\$411,000).

The annual NZAO Awards ceremony where students are hosted and together with the NZAO council celebrated in front of their peers and university staff was an early casualty to the global pandemic and this year the students were awarded in absentia.

2020 Maori - Pacific Island Scholarship	Annalise Kolf	\$1,000
2020 Leon Garner Award for top student entering BOptom Pt III	Sophia Tan	\$1,000
2020 Most Improved Student Entering BOptom Pt IV	Meg Benjamin	\$1,000
2020 Rob Jacobs Award for top student entering BOptom Pt IV	Luke Oliver	\$1,000
2020 Most Improved Student Entering BOptom Pt V	Daehyun Jin	\$1,000
2020 Michael Kalloniatis Award for top student entering BOptom Pt V	Coco Cui	\$1,000
2020 NZAO Award for 2nd to top student entering BOptom Part V	Renate Botha	\$1,000
2020 Peg Wood Award for the student gaining the highest combined grade course OPTOM 441: Clinical Optometry	Coco Cui	\$500
2019 NZAO Award for 2nd to top student entering BOptom Part V (omitted from 2019 annual report)	Steve Yoo	\$1,000
Post-graduate grants were awarded:		
2020 PhD Research Scholarship Topic: Exploring the role of the inflammasome in diabetic retinopathy	Charisse Kuo	\$15,000
2020 Undergraduate extern scholarships	12 awarded	\$11,800
2019 Postgraduate Snowvision Scholarship	Zaria Bradley	\$7,000

2020 NZAO Educational Event Award

Trustees also made the decision to support the School of Vision Science hosting the Australasian Scientific and Educators' meeting in optometry in April 2020 (SEMO) however this meeting was an early casualty to New Zealand entering Alert Level 4 and our borders closing.

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

This year MS-024 published one new document AS/NZS 8980.2019 which is a modified international adoption. Its full title is Ophthalmic optics - Uncut finished spectacle lenses, Part 2: Specifications for power-variation lenses (ISO 8980-2:2017, MOD) and the objective of this Standard is to specify requirements and verification methods for the optical and geometrical properties for uncut finished power-variation lenses. One new project started during the year to review AS/NZS ISO 13666 Ophthalmic optics – Spectacle vocabulary. This is expected to conclude by 3 July 2020

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

This year SF-006 published two documents AS ISO 12312.2:2020 and AS 1337.0:2020. AS ISO 12312.2:2020 is an international adoption identical outlining standards applying to eye and face protection as pertaining to sunglasses and related eyewear. Its full title is Eye and face protection - Sunglasses and related eyewear, Part 2: Filters for direct observation of the sun. AS 1337.0:2020 is an International adoption identical, the objective of this which is to define and explain the principal terms used in the field of personal eye and face protection. The full title is Personal protective equipment, Part 0: Eye and face protection - Vocabulary

CS-053 – Sunglasses currently has no working groups and no active projects. Its international mirror committee is ISO TC 94/SC 6 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. It was an entertaining night with an interactive presentation by NZAO council vice-president Chelsey Alexander. Over sixty 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

Traditionally in April the NZAO council provides a special welcome orientation for the new part II students entering the optometry degree. Unfortunately, this event had to be postponed due to the country-wide lock-down. An alternative event has been planned for September.

New Zealand Association of Optometrists Student Awards Event

Similarly, the planned NZAO Student Awards event in April was cancelled, and award winners were celebrated with an email and congratulations from the president, Rochelle van Eysden, on behalf of the NZAO council.

For details of the award winners see awards, scholarships, and grants section above. It is hoped that award winners can be congratulated in front of their peers when the NZAO host the next transition to work seminar in September.

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

The NZAO Council

The 2019 – 2020 NZAO council has been led by Rochelle van Eysden, president supported by Chelsey Alexander, vice-president, Callum Milburn, past - president and councillors Wilson Sue, Sita Thakersi, and Geoff Sargent. New Council member, Renata Watene was initially co-opted in June to fill a vacancy arising and was successful in her nomination at the AGM. All of council are working optometrists in practice, with 6 of 7 being practice owners.

During the year under review, the Council formally met four times face-to-face in September, October, December, February, and by ZOOM in April, and June. There were numerous additional, ad hoc planning and guidance meetings just prior to and after the announcement of the COVID-19 Alert Levels to strategise and develop advisories for members.

In February 2020, the Council with the executive officer and clinical services director participated in an Association Health Check with membership organisation guru Belinda Moore. The workshop was an opportunity to review our current strategies and practices to identify tangible opportunities to improve our performance – and to gain a better understanding of the key initiatives required to ensure your organisation has strong foundations for sustainable growth into the future. Belinda commented several times on her surprise that NZAO membership uptake and retention rates were high compared with similar organisations. It turns out this is because historically NZAO has done all the right things organisations are supposed to do, but maintaining that effort each and every year, for more than a decade, and for more than a century, is the challenge.

Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024

Thank you to all the members who have contributed your thoughts – and helped shape our focus for the coming years. At the start of the year under review, the NZAO council was pleased to unveil our new strategic plan with its aspirational vision: **A trusted and recognised optometry profession meeting the needs of New Zealanders in providing excellence in eye health and vision care.**

See the inside front cover for our detailed strategic plan.

The National Office

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

The national office staffing continues to evolve. At year end the office staffing is now comprised of 2.8FTE which includes an executive officer, Siobhan Molloy; officer manager, Grant Firth and membership & communications coordinator, Heather Patterson. The reduction of one FTE was a result of the ODOB bringing recording of CPD back into house. We farewelled Karthi Ilangovan, CPD manager in December, and Jo Lucre communications coordinator who resigned in February.

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, CPD online, and CPD recording services until the end of October.
- 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.
- Save our Sight campaign; community representation; handling 0800 calls and dealing with the public; responding to media enquiries; and providing a strong lobby force for the profession.

New initiatives during the year include:

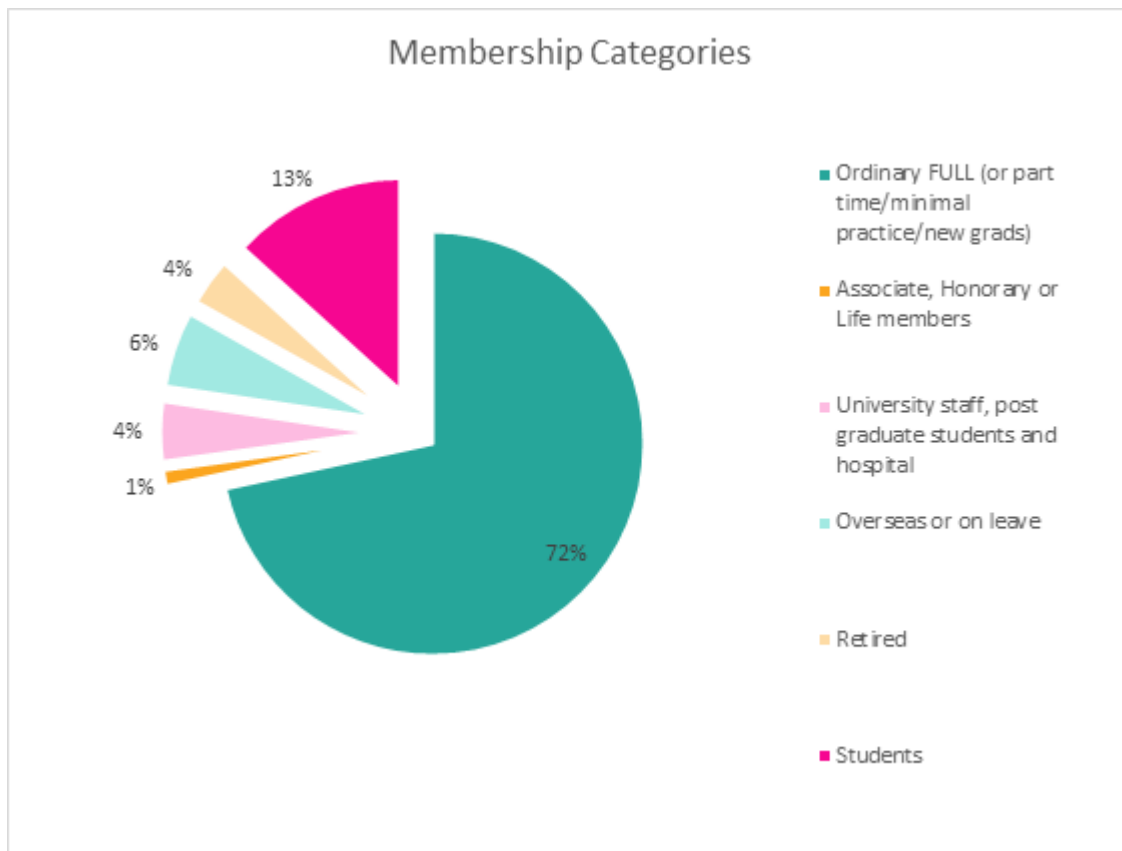
- **IT review:** NZAO carried out a significant IT infrastructure review in first six months of the year with the objective of future proofing and streamlining some of our internal and external activities. In recent months we have forged ahead with implementation. These changes are still a work in progress and include:
 - Office 365 and SharePoint for emailing and file storage
 - XERO for cloud-based financial management
 - GECCO for a cloud-based membership database – where members can access and update some of their own details
 - A fit for purpose member website – in development
 - Replacement IT hardware – with portable laptops.

Membership

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 705 members as of 30 June 2020 plus an additional 108 student members making a total of 813 members.



Honorary membership:

At the AGM, honorary memberships were conferred on Dr Lesley Frederikson for her leadership over the last 20 years, Professor Alwyn Stockley, 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. This year there were no formal complaints, however the office did facilitate between some members of the public and optometry practises for a satisfactory outcome for the patients concerned.

The alternative is a direct complaint made to the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board of New Zealand and/or to the Health & Disability Commissioner.

- The NZAO investigations committee was asked to look into whether there has been a breach of NZAO ethics – in particular number 16: *When promoting their practice*

or profession, ensure any claims made are valid, truthful and reflect their status as a trusted registered health practitioner.

The complainant was concerned about a quote in a newspaper article which stated '*[Name of practice withheld] has vastly improved the standard of eye care available to the people of [geographical area withheld] ...*'

After investigation to see if there was any evidence to validate the claim made, the committee found in favour of the complainant.

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.

An online application system was developed this year, and most members were able to navigate this and submit their forms electronically.

For the 2019-2020 period 510 individual member policies were purchased with 116 taking 'business entity' liability insurance. Only 15 practices opted for cyber insurance.

Claims made during the year came to a total of \$13,917.

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 2019 – 2020, 10,700 pamphlets, 1,850 paper bags and 300 travel cards were distributed

Clinical Priority Assessment of Cataract

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 allows optometrists to identify whether the patient meets criteria for automatic priority as a 'special case' due to features of diabetes, glaucoma, risk of macular degeneration, risk of angle closure, or unacceptable risk of operative complication in the event of

delay. If the patient meets the criteria to be a special case, the rest of the test does not need to be completed.

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.
- Last year, NZAO has continued to engage with the Ministry of Health as the new Therapeutic Products Bill was being further developed. NZAO advocated strongly for the new legislation to enable optometrists to prescribe new and unregistered products for patients in appropriate circumstances, such as when PHARMAC lists a replacement medicine to fill product shortages. Much effort has also been expended in bringing to the attention of MEDSAFE and PHARMAC the need for listing of low dose atropine for myopia control.
- This year NZAO collaborated with the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board of New Zealand to work with the Government and the Ministry of Health to ensure that optometrists would be considered as essential workers – this was achieved soon after we all entered Alert Level 4 lockdown. This meant that as essential workers optometrists could assist in the delivery of 'emergency and acute' eye care during the lockdown period. This applied to emergency and acute therapeutic care only and did not extend to day-to-day routine examinations or the sale of products or devices.

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

Save our Sight is NZAO's flagship public awareness campaign for eye health. Each year since 2002, the NZAO has headed the month-long eye health promotion campaign. The aims of this campaign are to:

- improve the eye health of New Zealanders by letting people know a regular eye examination by an optometrist can save their sight.
- improve understanding among New Zealanders that eye health is an essential part of maintaining personal health and wellbeing and they can take action by scheduling an eye examination every 2 years
- educate people about the realities of living with impaired vision and the importance of vision for performance at school, at work, and at play.

While patients wait to see their health practitioner, it is a perfect opportunity to promote the Save our Sight key messages through our comprehensive pamphlets and 'Don't get Blindsided' posters.

This year, it is estimated that there have been potentially eight million opportunities for patients to view, read and/or uplift pamphlets.

Posters were displayed in 430 locations while Save our Site brochures could be found in 724 sites across New Zealand throughout the year with a total of over 13,500 uplifted.

There was the expected absence of any uplifts for April and May due to COVID-19 alert levels.

Primary Eyecare Quarterly

The quarterly Primary Eye Care Newsletter is circulated to over 2,500 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 59 issues.



- **Issue 56** (July 2019) was a bumper issue raising questions artificial intelligence and the future of medicine, about familiarity breeding contempt for myopia. Other topics included retinal alterations and biomarkers for psychiatric disorders and uveitis and sarcoidosis.
- **Issue 57** (September 2019) was a focus on Save our Sight 2019...thousands of New Zealanders every year needlessly live with vision problems that affect their everyday lives...
- **Issue 58** (December 2019) identified some new findings related to Visual Perception, virtual avatars, and blood vessel leakage.
- **Issue 59** (March 2020) was topical and reviewed the research related to COVID-19 and

the Eyes... some of the issues that optometrists have been concerned with regarding the SARS-CoV-2 enveloped, single-stranded RNA virus.

Media Activities

NZAO – usually NZAO's media spokesperson, Andrew Sangster responded to seven media enquiries this year:

- An enquiry received from a journalist at **Te Waha Nui**, AUT news site, related to blue light filter lenses and NZAO's stance on whether these were necessary or not.
- A **Waikato Times** journalist asked about the link between epilepsy and eye strain and funding from MSD for glasses. Andrew Sangster responded to this enquiry.
- From a **TVNZ** journalist, a similar request for information on the blue light filter trend.
- **Consumer magazine** asked if there was any need for supplements to protect children against blue light; and asked for recommendations for parents if they were concerned their children were spending too long on their devices.
- **Stuff.co.nz** asked what advice optometrists are receiving regarding treating patients who have traveled from countries with COVID-19. The response was that the advice to optometrists was consistent with official government advisories.
- **TVNZ** enquired about whether optometrists were essential services or not and were appraised of the status of optometrists as essential workers and what that meant for members of the public.
- **The Wairoa Star** asked about the position of NZAO regarding the provision of optometry services in rural areas. While there is no official position on the provision of services to rural NZ, NZAO noted the challenge of access to primary health care in several more isolated communities in NZ such as the Wairoa district, the Far North, East Coast, Te Anau/Fiordland and the West Coast and in particular primarily private optometrically care.

NZAO noted a member, Ian Russell was featured in a Seven Sharp segment regarding a recent study linking screen time to myopia, or short sightedness.

Choosing Wisely

Choosing Wisely is a global initiative and seeks to reduce harm from unnecessary and low-value tests and treatment. Given the marked inequities in health in New Zealand, important parallel campaign objectives should be to avoid making these inequities worse for Māori and other disadvantaged groups, and to help reduce health inequities.

NZAO has joined the campaign which aims to promote a culture where low value and inappropriate clinical interventions are avoided, and patients and health professionals have well-informed conversations around their treatment options, leading to better decisions and outcomes.

Successful evidence-based practice and shared decision-making between optometrists and patients depends on effective communication about risks, harms, and benefits. There is usually more than one way to treat a problem (including the 'monitor only' option) and optometrists like all health professionals need to be able to communicate clear information about the risks and benefits of each option, to help their patients determine the best choice for them.

This includes decisions about diagnostic and screening tests, medications, and onward referrals and more. Choosing Wisely has created a useful guide for health professionals to help communicate risk effectively.

NZAO has printed business cards that members can distribute to their patients – each card asks the questions:

- Why am I having this test or treatment?
- What information will it provide?
- What are the risks of the test or treatment?
- What happens if I don't have the test or treatment?



GOVERNMENT HEALTH POLICIES

Review of New Zealand's Health and Disability System

The Health and Disability System Review was published in mid-June. The review panel identified challenges with fragmented primary and community health care being delivered inconsistently and without meaningful consideration for the needs of individuals, whānau, and communities.

This long-awaited Health and Disability System Review has been described as progressive and promising. It is the culmination of more than two years' research and consultation into New Zealand's health system.

The report contains five key recommendations:

1. A greater focus on population health.

2. The establishment of a new crown entity, Health NZ, to focus on the operational delivery of services.
3. Fewer DHBs (shifting from 20 to 8 – 12 within five years).
4. The creation of a Māori Health Authority to advise, monitor and report on Māori health outcomes.
5. Greater integration between primary and community care and hospital services.

NZAO still needs to delve deeper into the detail of the report, to better understand the intentions and initiatives contained in the report – however it is fair to say this is a once in a generation opportunity for change and improvement to New Zealand's health system.

District Health Boards

COVID-19 was a major focus for DHBs during the February to June period. However, during this time there were a few good examples of collaboration and cooperation between hospital teams and community optometrists but nothing formal was put in place and things tended to be different region by region. In some areas there was very good co-operation between hospital eye clinics and community optometrists to provide urgent and emergency eye services for the public, but this was ad hoc relying upon existing informal local relationships between ophthalmologists and optometrists.

Whilst optometry is not funded publicly through DHB there is an increased sense for community-based facilities to reduce the load on the hospital. COVID-19 has highlighted the vulnerability of the healthcare system and the need to “reinvent” a lot of how and why we practise in a certain way. NZAO is helping to reshape the way we interact with DHBs as they adapt to ever change health landscape. e.g. partnering with Catrax for contact tracing

Health Workforce New Zealand (HWNZ)

The role of HWNZ within the Ministry of Health is described as providing advice on workforce development and regulation; gathering workforce data and intelligence; and investing in health workforce training. The aim is to ensure the health system has the right people, in the right place with the right skills to provide the safest care and best outcomes for our population.

Health Workforce prioritisation:

NZAO participated in submitting a response to a request to order priorities 1 – 18.

The original HWNZ plan was to have 18 health workforce strategic priorities, however based on feedback received, the approach was changed. HWNZ have now identified five broad priorities. It has been flagged that there will be another consultation on this new approach to health workforce priorities but nothing more is known at this time

1. Growing the Māori health and disability workforce and creating environments in which Māori can thrive.
2. Growing the Pacific health and disability workforce and creating environments in which Pacific can thrive.
3. Enhancing the wellbeing of the health and disability workforce.
4. Strengthening shared skills and values across professions and working better as teams across the system.
5. Consistent shared data and intelligence to inform workforce planning.

HWNZ has carried out modelling of the ophthalmologist workforce and NZAO provided information on optometrist numbers, scope of practice, and practice locations.

Of interest in a publication from Association of Salaried Medical Specialists it was noted that “the Ministry of Health workforce and service demand modelling show New Zealand’s need for health services is projected to increase at a higher rate than the projected growth of the specialist workforce during the next 10 years. The modelling is conservative as it does not consider current unmet health need... **Workloads per ophthalmologist will need to increase by 20%, which again is likely to see a worsening of current levels of unmet need.**”

Rural Health Workforce:

An initial scoping exercise has provided several options to take the rural interdisciplinary training hubs forward. These range from the status quo - with the existing and planned rural immersion sites, right through to a full rural health professional school which would train multiple health professions across their entire degrees. The plan was for the Ministry to complete more in-depth scoping work in early 2020, and then to be talking with stakeholders.

We have signaled that NZAO is keen to see optometry participate more fully in initiatives such as the rural training hubs. No further action on this initiative to date.

Health workforce funding:

The investment approach of the directorate seems to be quite narrow:

HWNZ invests in training and development of the health and disability workforce. This funding:

- supports new graduate nurses, midwives, pharmacists, and doctors to transition into the workforce in their first year of practice
- subsidises the costs of vocational (specialist) training for doctors including general practice trainees
- supports the postgraduate training of nurses, midwives and a range of allied health and scientific workers such as anaesthetic technicians, sonographers, and medical physicists.

NZAO raised the issue of course funding and post-graduate training for optometry grads with Health Workforce NZ as a means of raising awareness that the health workforce is broad and encompasses more than the above-named groups that currently receive funding support.

Ministry of Health

NZAO has developed a stronger connection with the Ministry of Health via the chief allied health officer, Dr Martin Chadwick.

NZAO has joined in numerous virtual meetings with other allied health professional organisations and regulatory authorities for regular COVID-19 updates and opportunities for questions and answers.

REGULATORY REFORM

Incorporated Societies Act 1908

In June last year NZAO noted that cabinet papers were released regarding the Incorporated Societies Act amendments. To date, there is basically no updates or an additional time-frame in which the Act will be put to the select committee for final submissions, and we do not envisage it being put to parliament this side of the election.

However, the New Zealand Companies Office has been working to make the necessary proposed changes. One revision which may impact NZAO rules relates to member grievances (or complaint by anyone). NZAO continues to keep a watching brief on any proposals.

RELATED CLINICAL GROUPS

ACC

The funding of Post-concussion health services provided by optometrists:

In October, a meeting was held between NZAO members and ACC's new chief medical officer Dr John Robson and professional contracts manager Dr Kris Fernando.

NZAO raised concerns regarding inconsistency of access and that the ACC report not to fund cognitive dysfunction treatment by optometrists was being used at the coal face to decline referrals for visual dysfunction assessment/treatment by optometrists. NZAO argued that optometry wants to be part of the rehabilitation team, that rehabilitation evidence evolves, and the optometrist scope of practice has changed. It was agreed that ACC post-concussion clients should be getting consistent access to optometry services, thus ACC planned to carry out an internal review of the process including the updated information about the science. In addition, it was suggested that that it was probably time to look at the optometry contract/optometry codes.

A follow-up meeting in six months later has been postponed due to COVID-19.

National antibiotic prescribing guidance project:

Several NZAO members were engaged to scope the current use of guidance and prescribing habits of optometrists as well as what optometrists would want when getting guidance.

ACC pays for treatment related injury including injuries and adverse effects relating to medicine prescribing. The project aim is to establish guidelines for safer prescribing of antibiotics to reduce infections arising from incorrect prescribing and reduce injuries arising from prescribing (errors or otherwise) or adverse effects from medicines. This is anticipated to reduce costs to ACC as well as improve prescribing safety.

Eye Health Aotearoa

Eye Health Aotearoa, formerly known as Vision 2020 with the working group Eye Health Coalition, has been meeting regularly to discuss topical issues affecting the eye health sector, to promote and provide collaborative solutions.

The trustee organisations include: Blind Low Vision NZ, Glaucoma NZ, Macular Degeneration NZ, New Zealand Association of Optometrists, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists, School of Optometry and Vision Science and Sight Support Trust. Supporting organisations include the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board.

Eye Health Aotearoa has recently launched its inaugural website to have a digital platform to interact with stakeholders and the public. It can be visited via <https://www.eyehealthaotearoa.org.nz>.



Eye Health Aotearoa presented its recommended seven-point plan to members of parliament, guests, and media at Parliament House on February 19th, 2020.

Seven Point Plan:

1. Carry out the first-ever National Eye Health Survey to help plan for the future.
2. Educate the public about the importance of taking care of their eyes.
3. Provide funding for eye examinations as a first step to increase equitable access to eye health services for Super Gold cardholders and hard-to-reach populations.
4. Set up a 'New Zealand Vision Bus' where Kiwis in hard-to-reach places can get an eye examination.
5. Make sure people can get treatment quickly to prevent or slow down vision loss.
6. Make sure people with eye disease or vision loss know what their options are and get the support they need as soon as possible.
7. Make sure people with vision loss get vision rehabilitation services as early as possible so they can develop the skills to live the life they choose.

The main topical issue that has been a recent source of discussion is the 2020 Wellbeing Budget that included plans to introduce a free eye check for New Zealand's 750,000 Super Gold card holders. Eye Health Aotearoa, as well as NZAO itself, have offered to provide recommendations to the Ministry of Health on what the appropriate considerations would be regarding implementing a free eye check. NZAO extended the invitation of response to members to gauge exactly what the membership thought around the free eye check and this feedback has been presented to the Eye Health Aotearoa to ensure the voices of optometrists are heard in this coalition. To date, neither the Eye Health Aotearoa nor the NZAO have had any invitation to be a part of discussions around this topic, even with regular correspondence seeking a seat at the table.

Primary Health Alliance (PHA)

NZAO is an associate member of the Primary Health Alliance (previously known as the PHO Alliance) which provides national leadership on key issues affecting the primary health care strategy and primary health organisations in New Zealand.

NZAO benefits through information sharing and ability to participate in some key discussions that have the potential to impact on optometrists and the provision of primary eye care to New Zealanders.

Key discussions this year included:

- Health and Disability System Review
- COVID-19 updates with personnel from Primary Health Care System Improvement and Innovation, and Ministry of Health

A discussion paper: Developing Community Health and Wellbeing Networks - Integrated Care at the Heart of the New Zealand Health System is currently being reviewed. NZAO contributed a paper outlining its own view of integrated care which emphasised the importance of health networks involving independently sited health practitioners working together with the more traditional health hubs located alongside GP services.

A strategic plan now sets out the intention of the organisation plans to continue to add value for its members for the coming two years 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2022. This plan focuses on sector wide collaboration, sharing of resources and best practice, advocacy and representation and supporting sustainability.

Federation of Primary Health Aotearoa New Zealand (FPH)

NZAO's membership of the largest multi-disciplinary primary health organisation in New Zealand has provided the Association with access to a broad community of health system stakeholders. Importantly, it has given optometry a chance to participate in what could be a cohesive and powerful voice to advocate for primary health.

At the start of this year, a working group was formed to develop the Federation's submission to the Health and Disability System Review. The submission said that prioritising and investing in primary health, ensuring there is whānau-centric consumer engagement and supporting an interprofessional approach will have the biggest impact on improving health and wellbeing outcomes.

A workshop in February enabled input to the development of a paper: Development of a Business Model for Primary and Community Health Networks. In May, this vision was published, and the Minister of Health has been approached and asked for the Ministry of health to establish an officials' working group to support implementation of the proposed Community Health and Wellbeing Networks model. The imperative is for a national framework with supportive policies that enable and encourage primary and community organisations to work with iwi in an organised way to deliver equitable health and wellbeing services in each local area. F

The Federation has also been successfully engaging with the Ministry of Health and other key agencies in several areas including health system improvement and innovation, health workforce development and developing better mental health connections with primary health.

With the resignation in December of the CE, the Federation is undergoing a review about its future composition.

Low Vision

Low vision work continues to be directed into activities supporting the Eye Health Coalition which has a strong focus on low vision as part of the journey for some people who experience eye disease. While optometry has an obligation to diagnose and treat eye disease with the aim of reducing vision loss, for some, loss of vision is progressive and unpreventable. This means low vision care is a part of the continuum of eye health and vision pathway and as such involves a wider multidisciplinary group to provide full and effective care.

Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board (ODOB)

It has been a positive year for collaboration between ODOB and NZAO.

A memorandum of understanding outlining how each entity wishes to work with the other has been developed – the signing had to be postponed due to COVID-19 alert levels.

NZAO was in close contact with ODOB as soon as it was apparent that New Zealand was to experience an unprecedented challenge on the way optometrists could practice under the various COVID-19 alert levels.

On October 31, 2019 NZAO handed back the administration of recording CPD points to ODOB. For fifteen years, NZAO enjoyed the privilege of liaising with all the profession and keeping track of your CPD points.

Two submissions were made to ODOB – the first on the Proposal to Amend Dispensing Optician Scope of Practice (January 2020) and secondly, on the Preliminary Consultation - Revised Standards of Ethical Conduct (April 2020).

We note the farewelling of registrar, Lindsey Pine and welcome the incoming registrar, Antony McFelin.

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.

The annual ORRG meeting was held in Melbourne in October 2019; the NZAO was represented by our president, Rochelle van Eysden. There was a presentation by Peter Hendicott with a focus on enhancing better accreditation and quality outcomes for OCANZ by fostering closer collaboration with Schools of Optometry. Discussion was also had about how we can best imbue a more complete cultural awareness into our profession.

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.

Wilson Sue (member, NZAO nominee) met with outgoing chair Prof Peter Hendicott (QIT) and incoming chair Prof Alex Gentle (Deakin) in November. NZ input is also provided by Dr Andrew Collins (OCANZ Deputy Chair), Jayesh Chouhan (member, ODOB nominee), Associate Professor Jennifer Craig (director), and Renata Watene (OCANZ Strategic Indigenous Taskforce Board).

Optometry Australia (OA)

NZAO has welcomed a closer working relationship with our Australian colleagues in Optometry Australia (OA). The two associations share information on political, regulatory, and professional matters and mutually support the development of optometry in both countries.

With the advent of the global pandemic, president, Rochelle van Eysden has joined Optometry Australia in a regular crisis leadership group. Both organisations have shared COVID related resources. NZAO is appreciative of OA's ongoing support and of opening their Institute of Clinical Excellence to our members for six months.

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.

A significant focus of activity this year has been with disseminating credible information regarding preventable measures, well-being, and updates related to COVID-19.

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. In 2019, WCO strengthened ties with their partner organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB).

The 3rd World Congress of Optometry October 23-27, 2019 was hosted in partnership with the American Academy of Optometry. The new president, Mr. Paul Folkesson from Sweden, was welcomed and he has been leaning WCO as it moved into 2020 – The Year of Optometry!

Optometry Australia have won the rights to host the 4th World Congress of Optometry in Melbourne, which will be held alongside O=MEGA21 (September 2 to 4, 2021).

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

- Submission to the Ministry of Health on the **Child New Zealand Health Survey Stakeholder Feedback Questionnaire** (July 2019). We noted the importance of vision for academic, social and physical development and advocated for the inclusion of indicators on status of eye health or vision function of children across the birth to 14 years age span. We requested the inclusion of questions relating to access to primary eye health services as this is a current gap in data.
- Submission to the Ministry of Health on the **Adult New Zealand Health Survey Stakeholder Feedback Questionnaire** (July 2019). We suggested that an important omission from the data on chronic conditions is information about low vision. Similarly, to the child health survey, we advocated for the inclusion of questions relating to access to primary eye health services and indicators on status of eye health or vision function.
- Submission to PHARMAC on the **Proposal to list adalimumab** – (July 2019) where we supported the proposal to widen funded access to adalimumab to include treatment of severe or chronic ocular inflammation (uveitis), as an alternative first-line biologic treatment to infliximab. We also noted our support for the Special Authority criteria for severe and chronic ocular inflammation as being reasonable and that widening the funding would be a positive step.
- Submission to Ministry of Health on the **Well Child Tamariki Ora Review** (August 2019). We noted that vision and problems with visual functioning are not well covered by the WCTO programme and advocated expanding the vision screening program to truly screen a wide range of visual function; ensuring that vision problems are quickly and professionally diagnosed and where necessary that treatments are available and ensuring that investigation of childhood learning, behavioural and development problems includes investigation of vision function.
- Submission to Medsafe on **Proposed warning statements for substances (e.g. allergens) in medicines that may cause undesirable reactions** (August 2019) where we were in general agreement with all proposals.
- Submission to Medsafe on **Proposed changes to paracetamol warning and advisory statements** (January 2020) where we were in general agreement with all proposals.
- Submission to the Optometrist and Dispensing Opticians Board on the **Proposal to Amend Dispensing Optician Scope of Practice** (January 2020) where we said we were not in favour of the proposed changes with its current wording. Our rationale included that the extended description required for “delegated tasks” is confusing for health consumers and open to misinterpretation by local/overseas employers of dispensing opticians unfamiliar with NZ health regulation. In addition, the proposed changes take place with no change to

the health education component of the minimum qualification required for registration as a dispensing optician in NZ. Lastly, we felt it was not consistent with the regulation of optometrists by ODOB, or the regulation of other health professions under HPCAA by other Responsible Authorities.

- Submission to the Optometrist and Dispensing Opticians Board on the **Preliminary Consultation - Revised Standards of Ethical Conduct** (April 2020) where we noted in general strong support for the proposed changes. We raised the question if there should be a distinction between the ethics of the dispensing opticians and optometrists.
- Submission to Medical Council of New Zealand on their draft statement on **Unprofessional behaviour: How it impacts patient safety and team-based care**. NZAO affirmed the proposed changes. We noted that making zero tolerance for unprofessional behaviour clear is helpful and the suggestion to discuss the problem in the first instance is a good idea.
- Submission to the Ministry of Health on the **Draft Terms of Reference and Core Standards for Performance Reviews of Responsible Authorities**. Our detailed submission made two specific recommendations. The first was that the reference to competence and practice standards explicitly include a requirement that these be up to date or any other form of words that indicate that a contemporary standard is required not a traditional one. The second recommendation was that there be an explicit performance standard that relates to the performance of the responsible authority in providing and undertaking processes to assess applications by any health practitioner who applies for an authorisation for extended scopes of practice to include new services

Financial Reports

NZAO Annual Financial Statement

The NZAO audited financial statements will be forwarded to all members prior to the annual general meeting.

Financial Statements

New Zealand Association of Optometrists
For the year ended 30 June 2020

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- 7 Statement of Changes in Equity
- 8 Balance Sheet
- 9 Notes to the Financial Statements

Directory

New Zealand Association of Optometrists For the year ended 30 June 2020

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
Johnsonville
Wellington

Bankers

Bank of New Zealand

Statement of Profit or Loss

New Zealand Association of Optometrists For the year ended 30 June 2020

	NOTES	2020	2019
Income			
Subscriptions		379,506	512,841
Donations Received		124,609	123,708
Prof. Indemnity Insurance		218,476	238,100
Conference Income		77,006	39,709
CPD Recording Programme Income		31,033	75,000
Student PI Insurance		6,770	11,380
Continuing Education Income		3,515	675
Services Provided Income		-	3,622
Entrance Fees		2,167	322
Interest Received		25,496	27,323
MSD Wage Subsidy		21,089	-
Total Income		889,669	1,032,680
Trading Income			
Pamphlets & Accessories		4,310	8,683
Total Trading Income		4,310	8,683
Cost of Sales			
Opening Stock		14,474	14,812
Distribution Costs		265	1,648
Purchases - Pamphlets		-	3,591
Closing Stock		(11,002)	(14,474)
Total Cost of Sales		3,737	5,576
Gross Profit		573	3,107
Expenses			
Donations Transferred to NERF		124,609	123,708
Insurance Premiums			
Prof. Indemnity Insurance Expense		148,974	213,630
Student PI Insurance		6,480	10,890
Total Insurance Premiums		155,454	224,520
Conference Expenses		49,951	46,137
Personnel			
ACC Levy		419	749
Recruitment		225	5,826
Remuneration		335,090	327,340
Staff Prof. Development		738	172
Total Personnel		336,472	334,087
Occupancy			
Insurance		2,184	2,184

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

	NOTES	2020	2019
Outgoings		1,145	1,653
Parking		-	609
Rent - National Office		23,266	23,155
Total Occupancy		26,596	27,600
Office and Stationery			
Bank Charges		362	260
Office Equipment		1,250	-
Photocopying		1,500	5,481
Services Provided - Merchant Fees		4,115	-
Stationery		1,508	2,571
Subscriptions & Publications		1,348	1,607
Total Office and Stationery		10,083	9,919
Information Systems			
Maintenance		1,231	2,027
Software & Small Equipment expense		2,548	3,487
Total Information Systems		3,778	5,514
Domestic Activities			
Domestic Activities		31,915	25,255
Mileage		993	639
Total Domestic Activities		32,908	25,894
International Activities			
A P C O		328	225
O CANZ		903	-
W C O		3,286	3,157
Total International Activities		4,517	3,382
Communication			
Courier		112	823
Freight		-	83
Phone Fax & Internet		4,055	7,116
Postages		2,509	6,073
Total Communication		6,676	14,095
Marketing and Public Relations			
Directories - Phone		5,315	6,349
PR Activities		100	100
Primary Eyecare GP Relations		4,577	2,331
Save Our Sight		54,780	64,614
Total Marketing and Public Relations		64,771	73,393
Sponsorship			
Other Sponsorship		930	-
Total Sponsorship		930	-
External Fees			
Audit		10,216	6,677
Accounting		6,191	6,200

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

	NOTES	2020	2019
Legal		-	5,450
Total External Fees		16,407	18,327
Special Projects			
SP 3: Pharmacy Liaison		270	200
SP 4: Optometry Student Development		3,990	12,806
SP 5: Pharma		5,590	6,960
SP 6: MIMS		5,950	-
SP 7: Journal Clin & Exp Optometry		49,401	47,880
SP 10: CAA Seminar		2,350	-
SP 11: Centre for Eye Health CPD		9,485	9,544
Total Special Projects		77,038	77,390
Bad Debts		10,394	-
Depreciation		3,436	4,611
Total Expenses		924,019	988,576
Net Profit / (Loss) Before Taxation		(33,777)	47,211
Net Profit / (Loss) for the Year		(33,777)	47,211

Statement of Changes in Equity

New Zealand Association of Optometrists

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
Members Funds		
Opening Balance	693,883	646,673
Increases		
Income for the Period	-	47,211
Total Increases	-	47,211
Decreases		
Loss for the Period	33,777	-
Total Decreases	33,777	-
Total Members Funds	660,106	693,883

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

Balance Sheet

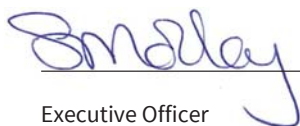
New Zealand Association of Optometrists As at 30 June 2020

	NOTES	30 JUN 2020	30 JUN 2019
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Bank			
BNZ Call Account		26,198	28,891
BNZ Current Account		168,528	141,539
Cash On Hand		-	87
Total Cash and Bank		194,727	170,517
Term Deposits	8	443,809	152,992
Trade and Other Receivables		21,982	3,028
Prepayments		26,111	11,172
GST Receivable		-	7,203
Inventories		11,002	14,474
Income Tax Receivable	7	17,593	9,956
Accrued Interest		1,426	1,361
Total Current Assets		716,650	370,703
Non-Current Assets			
Term Deposits	8	222,083	423,149
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	17,041	2,941
Total Non-Current Assets		239,125	426,091
Total Assets		955,775	796,794
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables		24,384	79,943
Accruals		103,348	22,968
Provision for Membership Rebate		165,578	-
GST Payable		2,359	-
Total Current Liabilities		295,669	102,911
Total Liabilities		295,669	102,911
Net Assets		660,106	693,883
Equity			
Members Funds		660,106	693,883
Total Equity		660,106	693,883

For and on Behalf of NZAO Council:



President



Executive Officer

Date: 13/10/2020

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

New Zealand Association of Optometrists For the year ended 30 June 2020

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 (incl. 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.

2020

2019

5. Property, Plant and Equipment

Computer Hardware

Computer Hardware at cost	78,625	61,089
Accumulated depreciation - computer hardware	(62,254)	(60,484)
Total Computer Hardware	16,371	605

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	17,872	17,872
Accumulated depreciation - furniture and fittings	(17,701)	(17,535)
Total Furniture and Fittings	170	337

Office Equipment

Office Equipment at cost	7,500	7,500
Accumulated depreciation - office equipment	(7,000)	(5,500)
Total Office Equipment	500	2,000

Total Property, Plant and Equipment	17,041	2,941
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This Year	Cost/Historical Cost	Net Additions (Disposals)	Accumulated Depreciation	Current year depreciation	Closing Carrying Amount
Asset Class					
Computer Hardware	61,089	17,536	60,484	1,770	16,371
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
Last Year	Cost/Historical Cost	Net Additions (Disposals)	Accumulated Depreciation	Current year depreciation	Closing Carrying Amount
Asset Class					
Computer Hardware	60,314	775	57,579	2,905	605
Display Stands	8,965	0	8,965	0	0
Furniture and Fittings	17,640	232	17,330	206	336
Office Equipment	7,500	0	4,000	1,500	2,000
Total	94,419	1,007	87,874	4,611	2,941

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.



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.

	2020	2019
Council members were paid the following during the year		
Andrew Sangster	-	1,843
Jack Crawford	-	1,005
Geoff Sargent	2,290	2,080
Wilson Sue	5,000	4,500
Chelsey Wood	4,250	5,750
Renata Watene	3,550	-
Rochelle van Eysden	5,863	6,198
Callum Milburn	2,000	4,000
Sita Thakersi	2,345	1,675
Total Council members were paid the following during the year	25,298	27,051
	2020	2019

7. Income Tax Expense

Net Profit (Loss) per Financial Statements	(33,777)	47,211
Additions to Taxable Profit		
Expenses within the Membership	354,873	388,854
Total Additions to Taxable Profit	354,873	388,854
Deductions from Taxable Profit		
Income within the Membership	379,506	512,841
Losses Brought Forward	76,777	-
Total Deductions from Taxable Profit	456,283	512,841
Taxable Profit (Loss)	(135,187)	(76,777)
Taxation at 28%	-	-
Income Tax Expense	-	-
Deductions from Tax Payable		
Resident Withholding Tax Paid	7,637	9,956
Total Deductions from Tax Payable	7,637	9,956
Current Years Tax Payable / (Refund Due)	(7,637)	(9,956)
Prior Years Tax Outstanding		
Prior years tax outstanding	(9,956)	-
Total Prior Years Tax Outstanding	(9,956)	-
Total Income Tax Payable / (Refund Due)	(17,593)	(9,956)

Income tax losses available to be carried forward total \$135,187 (2019: \$76,777). The losses are subject to Inland Revenue Department confirmation.

2020

2019

8. Term Deposits

Current

BNZ Term Deposit - 3061	109,492	-
BNZ Term Deposit - 3063	53,050	51,849
BNZ Term Deposit - 3066	71,079	101,143
BNZ Term Deposit - 3067	103,685	-
BNZ Term Deposit - 3068	56,019	-
BNZ Term Deposit - 3071	50,485	-
Total Current	443,809	152,992

Non Current

BNZ Term Deposit - 3057	59,690	57,942
BNZ Term Deposit - 3061	-	106,882
BNZ Term Deposit - 3062	162,394	157,112
BNZ Term Deposit - 3067	-	101,214
Total Non Current	222,083	423,149

Total Term Deposits	665,893	576,141
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9. Contingent Liabilities

There are no known contingent liabilities at balance date (2019: \$Nil).

10. Events Occurring After Balance Date

A provision for membership subscription rebate for the 2019/20 financial year was recognised in the financial statements.

No other 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. From 25 March 2020, New Zealand was placed into Alert Level 4 lockdown to combat the pandemic, for a minimum period of four weeks. From 28 April 2020 this was reduced to Alert Level 3 with some restrictions relaxed, for a period of two weeks. From 13 May 2020 this was reduced to Alert Level 2, with lockdown restrictions further reduced. From 9 June 2020 this was reduced to Alert Level 1, with domestic lockdown restrictions removed. On 12 August 2020, this was raised back to Alert Level 2.

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.

	2020	2019
Financial commitments are:		
Not more than one year	28,175	11,000
More than one year	44,610	-
Total Financial commitments are:	72,785	11,000

There were no material capital commitments at balance date other than the commitment of \$8,500 for the development of the website and GECCO database with CLAD Online Ltd. (2019: \$Nil).

Independent auditor's report

To the Members of New Zealand Association of Optometrists Incorporated

Opinion

We have audited the special purpose financial statements of New Zealand Association of Optometrists Incorporated on pages 4 to 14, which comprise the balance sheet as at 30 June 2020 and the statement of profit or loss, and statement of changes in equity for the year then ended, and notes to the special purpose financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements of New Zealand Association of Optometrists Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2020 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the statement of accounting policies of the special purpose financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) (ISAs (NZ)). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the special purpose financial statements' section of our report.

We are independent of New Zealand Association of Optometrists Incorporated in accordance with Professional and Ethical Standard 1 (Revised) 'Code of ethics for assurance practitioners' issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other than our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in, New Zealand Association of Optometrists Incorporated.

Emphasis of Matter: Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 2 to the special purpose financial statements, which describes the 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. As a result, the special purpose financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for New Zealand Association of Optometrists Incorporated and its Council and should not be distributed to parties other than New Zealand Association of Optometrists Incorporated.

Council's responsibilities for the special purpose financial statements

The Council are responsible on behalf of New Zealand Association of Optometrists Incorporated for the preparation of these special purpose financial statements in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the statement of accounting policies of the special purpose financial statements and for such internal control the Council determine is necessary to enable the preparation of special purpose financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Council are responsible on behalf of New Zealand Association of Optometrists Incorporated for assessing New Zealand Association of Optometrists

Incorporated's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Council either intend to liquidate New Zealand Association of Optometrists Incorporated or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the special purpose financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the special purpose financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (NZ) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of these special purpose financial statements.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the special purpose financial statements is located at the XRB's website at <http://www.xrb.govt.nz/standards-for-assurance-practitioners/auditors-responsibilities/audit-report-8/>



Moore Markhams Wellington Audit | Qualified Auditors, Wellington, New Zealand
13 October 2020

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 2020**

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	12
PhD candidate research scholarship Project Title: “Exploring the role of the inflammasome in diabetic retinopathy”	1
Educational event - Scientific and Educators Meeting in Optometry SEMO 2020 - cancelled due to COVID-19 - sponsorship monies reimbursed)	1
Postgraduate Snowvision scholarship	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**

	2020	2019
Revenue		
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	124,609	123,708
Interest, dividends and realised investment gains	77,481	69,667
Total Revenue	202,090	193,375
Expenses		
Grants and donations made	30,948	55,457
Realised investment losses	17,362	1,821
Accountancy fees and bank charges	4,600	2,080
Total Expenses	52,910	59,358
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	149,180	134,017

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 2020	30 JUN 2019
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank accounts and cash	86,223	63,889
Debtors and prepayments	44,209	-
Other Current Assets	8,458	7,701
Total Current Assets	138,890	71,590
Non-Current Assets		
Investments	1,508,393	1,423,512
Total Non-Current Assets	1,508,393	1,423,512
Total Assets	1,647,282	1,495,102
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Creditors and accrued expenses	3,000	-
Total Current Liabilities	3,000	-
Total Liabilities	3,000	-
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)	1,644,282	1,495,102
Accumulated Funds		
Reserves	1,644,282	1,495,102
Total Accumulated Funds	1,644,282	1,495,102

NZAO Education and Research Fund
For the year ended 30 June 2020

'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 (GST)

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.

Interest

Interest has been accounted for on an accrued basis.

Investments

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

Scholarships and Awards

Scholarships and Awards are accounted for on an accrual basis.

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.

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 of Entity's Outcomes

The provision of scholarships to persons undertaking a course of studies in optometry at the University of Auckland. Nine awards were made to undergraduate students enrolled in Bachelor of Optometry at The University of Auckland.

Description and Quantification of the Entity's Outputs

New Zealand Association of Optometrists Leon Garner Award for top student entering BOptom part III	1
New Zealand Association of Optometrists Rob Jacob Award for top student entering BOptom part IV	1
New Zealand Association of Optometrists for the most improved student entering BOptom part IV	1
New Zealand Association of Optometrists Michael Kalloniatis Award for top student entering BOptom part V	1
New Zealand Association of Optometrists for 2nd to top student entering BOptom part V (2020 year)	1
New Zealand Association of Optometrists for 2nd to top student entering BOptom part V (2019 year)	1
New Zealand Association of Optometrists for the most improved student entering BOptom part V	1
Peg Wood Award for top student gaining highest combined grade in Optom 441: clinical optometry	1
New Zealand Association of Optometrists for the top Māori/Pacific student entering BOptom part II	1

New Zealand Optometrical Trust Statement of Financial Performance “How was it funded?” and “What did it cost?” For the year ended 30 June 2020		
	2020	2019
Revenue		
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	2,028	-
Interest, dividends and realised investment gains	48,663	42,629
Total Revenue	50,690	42,629
Expenses		
Grants and donations made	8,500	6,500
Realised investment losses	17,362	1,821
Accountancy fees and bank charges	4,601	2,040
Total Expenses	30,462	10,361
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	20,228	32,268

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 2020	30 JUN 2019
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank accounts and cash	38,086	15,587
Debtors and prepayments	2,600	-
Other Current Assets	1,485	1,800
Total Current Assets	42,171	17,387
Non-Current Assets		
Investments	725,970	726,526
Total Non-Current Assets	725,970	726,526
Total Assets	768,141	743,913
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Creditors and accrued expenses	3,000	-
Other current liabilities	6,000	5,000
Total Current Liabilities	9,000	5,000
Total Liabilities	9,000	5,000
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)	759,141	738,913
Accumulated Funds		
Capital contributed by owners or members	200	200
Reserves	758,941	738,713
Total Accumulated Funds	759,141	738,913

N.Z. Optometrical Association Trust
For the year ended 30 June 2020

'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 (GST)

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

Income Tax

N.Z. Optometrical Association Trust 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.

Interest

Interest has been accounted for on an accrued basis.

Investments

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

Scholarships and Awards

Scholarships and Awards are accounted for on an accrual basis.

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.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 89TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2019 annual general meeting of the New Zealand Association of Optometrists Inc. commenced at 9.28am on Saturday 19 October 2019. It was attended by the president, Ms. Rochelle van Eysden, the vice president, Chelsey Alexander, four members of the NZAO council and approximately 56 members with the executive officer, Siobhan Molloy in attendance.

1. Welcome

The meeting was chaired by Rochelle van Eysden who welcomed all members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Geoff Sargent, Leith O'Connor, Kevin O'Connor, Bob Kinnear, Samantha Simkin, Kimberley Taylor, Diane Pearson, Adele Jefferies, Ross Gordon and Roger Apperley, Peter Stevenson, Jacky Lallu, and Jagrut Lallu.

3. Proxies

MOVED that the following proxies be accepted:

Rochelle van Eysden for Roger Apperley

Andrew Sangster for Adele Jefferies

4. Obituaries

The members were advised that the following people had passed away since our last meeting:

Douglas Gordon Stevenson, Desmond Moss, John Fleming and Peter Turner

The meeting stood in silence in Douglas, Des, John and Peter's memory.

5. Council Officers for the Ensuing Year

President Rochelle van Eysden being satisfied that the nomination process for vacant Council positions was concluded declared the successful candidates to be Wilson Sue, Chelsey Alexander, and Renata Watene who will join with sitting Council members, Rochelle van Eysden, Callum Milburn, Sita Thakersi, and Geoff Sargent .

Mrs. van Eysden also advised that Council had met prior to the AGM and that the following officers had been elected for 2019/2020:

President:	Rochelle van Eysden
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Vice President:	Chelsey Alexander
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This was greeted with applause.

6. Honorary Members for the Ensuing Year

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

Professor Alwyn Stockley

Associate Professor Rob Jacobs

Professor Michael Kalloniatis

Dr Lesley Frederikson

This was greeted with applause.

7. Approval of Proceedings of 88th Annual General Meeting

Noted that the minutes of the 2018 annual general meeting of the New Zealand Association of Optometrists Inc. held at the Copthorne Bay of Islands, 12 – 13 October 2018, had been circulated to all members.

MOVED that the minutes of the 2018 annual general meeting be approved as a true and accurate record.

Andrew Sangster / Sita Thakersi **CARRIED**

Matters Arising

None

8. Presentation and Adoption of the Annual Report

Noted that the annual report for the 2018 - 2019 year had been circulated to all members.

Matters arising

Nil

MOVED that the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2019 be approved and adopted.

Annette Morgan/ Ross Tayler? **CARRIED**

9. Presentation and Adoption of the Annual Financial Statements

Noted that the annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2019, had been circulated to all members.

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

Brett Hooker queried the need for the Association to have reserves of more than \$600,000. Wilson Sue responded on behalf of Council saying that historically one year's expenses is kept in reserves to allow financial flexibility particularly when dealing with unexpected events. Examples discussed: early 2000s NZAO had to consider taking legal action including the cost of a judicial review when a proposal to government was made for the deregulation of optometry as part of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003; 2008 a corporate threatened legal action against NZAO; 2019 proposed changes to the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 resulted in the need for additional professional accounting and legal advice at short notice. [Other examples: 2011 after the Christchurch earthquake members from Canterbury were offered an immediate annual subs partial refund and reduced NZAO Conference registration fee for several years; 2016 after the Kaikoura earthquake double rent was paid for a time when relocating National Office from Wellington CBD to Tawa]. .

MOVED that the Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2017 be approved and adopted.

Wilson Sue / Ross Tayler? **CARRIED**

10. Appointment of Auditors

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

Rochelle van Eysden / Chelsey Alexander **CARRIED**

11. Setting of Subscriptions for 2019/2020

The budget for the year ended 30 June 2020 had been circulated to all members.

The chair observed that this subscription rate has not risen since 2014 and represents a rise of just over 5% whereas CPI rise for the equivalent period was 5.5%.

MOVED that the subscriptions for the 2019/2020 year be set at \$1235 (excluding GST) for ordinary members with appropriate reductions for other classes of membership.

Andrew Sangster/Renata Watene **CARRIED**

12. General Business

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

Insurance

Jack Crawford raised a concern about the number of patients changing optometrists because they felt obliged to use the preferred supplier of their insurance company. Renata Watene spoke on behalf of Council and acknowledged this is a valid point. If an insurer is giving the insured person an option, they are legitimately entitled to have preferred providers. Mark Eagle said that in several cases he had informed the insurance company that their preferred supplier was not actually able to supply a "like for like" frame or lens of equivalent design or quality.

Andrew Sangster commented that it is likely that we are probably aware only of the tip of the iceberg. It was reiterated that educating the public what their rights are was something each practice can do.

A query was made as to why Southern Cross is willing to pay \$400 for an OCT with an ophthalmologist but not willing to pay a lesser amount for the same assessment with an optometrist. Wilson Sue commented that his understanding was Southern Cross paid both ophthalmologists and optometrists if imaging was included within a particular level of cover.

ACC

Members were asked if they have received advice from ACC to charge for an initial eye exam four times to get the ACC payment up to their usual fee for that service. Wilson Sue commented that he and Renee Edgar had recently met with the ACC chief medical officer and the professional contracts manager, who both agreed the optometry services contract needed review, including more appropriate optometry service codes. There will be a follow-up meeting with ACC in 2020.

Advocacy

Andrew Sangster commented that the onus of being advocates for the profession does not rest solely with the NZAO Council, all members should be representing their professional association in their own right. The question is not: "What are you going to do about it but what are we going to do about it?" Several members applauded.

Callum Milburn described an opportunity where he was able to influence a local change in his DHB through advocating with a DHB board member.

Council reiterated that all optometrists have the opportunity every day to promote their profession by providing a consistently high standard of care to their patients. Michael White reported that Ian Finch had recently been elected to the Bay of Plenty DHB.

Patient Information Requests

Mark Eagle raised the issue that many optometrists are using an archaic system to request information about a patient from another practice. He recommended a digital system where a practice can simply copy and paste and attach files in reply to the request. The member will send this idea to NZAO to disseminate.

Communication with Council

John Veale asked if we could improve the communication between members and Council and noted Council have an email address: council@nzao.co.nz It was agreed this address will go on the front page of every edition of the TVC.

Future Conferences

A suggestion for next conference for participants to divide in special interest 'pods.

Wilson noted that the concurrent workshops on today's conference programme is an attempt to create more interaction between participants around special interests. Members are always welcome to send their suggestions about what they would like to see on future programmes to the NZAO national office.

The chair closed the meeting at 10.29am.

THE NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF OPTOMETRISTS
173 MAIN ROAD ∞ PO BOX 51008 ∞ TAWA ∞ WELLINGTON 5249

