

**The New Zealand Association
Occupational Therapists (Inc)
Annual Report**

April 2005- March 2006



Dear Members

Council are delighted to report that the 2005/2006 year builds on the constructive and positiveness for the Association of previous years. This is directly attributable to your dedication and contribution to the ongoing maintenance and development of this organization.

Two key highlights for the year included being able to publicly thank Dr Clare Hocking for her energy and enthusiasm over the past eight years representing NZAOT at the World Federation of Occupational Therapists. Clare has made a huge contribution to the International world of OT by co-authoring the Revised Minimum Standards for Occupational Therapy Education. Grace O'Sullivan received the Medical Staffing International Award for 2005 for innovative occupational therapy with older people.

However challenges remain. The percentage of practicing occupational therapists represented by NZAOT declined from 65% of all Annual Practice Certificate (APC) holders in the year 2004/05 to 51% in this year. Anecdotal reports from members suggest that the increase in the fee charged by the Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand to renew the APC may have had an influence in this decline. Promoting membership of the Association is core business for all NZAOT members. Participating in the professional association is an excellent way to celebrate and promote occupational therapy in Aotearoa/ New Zealand

This annual report briefly summarizes NZAOT activities to the year ending 31st March 2006, under the headings of our strategic goals

Strategic Goal 1: Effective communication is facilitated between members

By:

- Initiating the members only part of the NZAOT Website in October –It offers a gate way to a wealth of professional support and information about Association business.
- Increasing the use of the internet to communicate with and between members. Through direct email by hosting eleven special interest groups whose conversations and debate take place using the Topica LISTservs.
- Publishing two editions of the New Zealand Journal of Occupational Therapy (Vol 53 and 54) under new editor Grace O'Sullivan. Grace continues to provide an internationally cited scholarly publication offering articles of relevance to New Zealand and international readers.

- Publishing the magazine of the Association “OT Insight” monthly. This publication has received very positive feedback from membership – and overseas and many OT Insight articles have been re-published elsewhere. The Association continues to encourage members to communicate with each other by submitting articles and news items to the magazine.
- Supporting the initiation of four new special interest groups (SIGs).
 - Rheumatology
 - Neurology
 - Occupational Therapy Supervision
 - Physical Community
 There are now a total of 11 SIGs all with their own LISTserv discussion forums:
- The Driving SIG members initiated their own LISTserv – and now regularly exchange information online

Strategic Goal 2: Members interests and views are represented to key stakeholders

By:

- Developing a strategy for identifying and prioritising new position statements which was incorporated into the Position Statement Policy.
- Developing and implementing a tool for prioritising and recording requests for submissions and representation.
- The dedicated work of a small number of members who enabled the Association to respond to requests for submissions and representation to working parties. These members made significant contributions to the following documents and forums/working parties:
 - Discussion Document: People with Chronic Conditions – May (AHPAF)
 - Fit for Purpose and Practice: A Review of the Medical Workforce in New Zealand – July (AHPAF)
 - Department of Labour Occupational Therapy Skill Shortages – October
 - DHBNZ Workforce Environmental Scan – January
 - Land Transport (Driver Licensing) Amendment Rule (No 2) 2006 Rule 91001/3 - February
 - EBP Guideline on Diagnosis, Acute management and rehabilitation of people after Traumatic brain Injury – ongoing
- Membership of a range of working groups including:
 - Standards New Zealand - An Audit Workbook for Community Services for People with Dementia - Grace O’Sullivan
 - ACC Pain Management Focus Group – Diane Henare
 - Clinical Standards Setting Industry Training Organization - Older Person - Grace O’Sullivan
 - Clinical Standards Setting Industry Training Organization - Diversional Therapists - Grace O’Sullivan
 - PSA Professional Indemnity Working Party – Michelle Mains

- Ministry Social Development Health/Disability Assessments Working Group – Nikki Porteous
 - AUT Advisory Committee – Christine Rigby
 - Otago PEAC – Shirley Milligan and Rachel Wallace
 - Maori Allied Health Hui – Jo-Anne Gilsenan with Jane Hopkirk
- Upskilling the Council and ED in the knowledge & skills of successful lobbying. This training was provided by the Hon. Tim Barnett - Labour Party Chief Whip and has enabled us to understand the most strategic and effective way to influence government decision making

Strategic Goal 3: Members are empowered to continue their professional development

By:

Providing a number of successful professional development activities:

- The Clinical Workshops “Tools of the Trade” in Hawkes Bay. (Thanks to Ann Webster, Elizabeth Gardner, Sarah Watkins, Alison Nelson, Philippa Evans, Adrienne Edwards, Louise Pickett, Barbara Harder with Fran Van Tyl (e.events)
- The Driver & Passenger Assessment & Rehabilitation Special Interest Group conference (Thanks to Barbara Steptoe and Jane Hazlett)
- Focus on the Future Forum – Occupational Therapists working with Older People Special Interest Group (Thanks to Hamilton OTWWOP SIG members)

Planning for future events

- Supporting the establishment of the organizing committee to deliver the 2006 Conference in Wellington – “Dancing Jandals; Occupational Therapy in the Pacific Rim”. (Thanks to Elizabeth Rowland, Nikki Porteous, Annette Charleson; Nicky Bank and Janette McKeivitt, Tanya Loveard with Barbara Larkins (e.events)

Offering increased benefits such as:

- Free links to a range of OT data bases via the Member only section of the web site.
- A step by step guide to Evidence Based Practice also in the members only website
- Increasing the number of supervisors on the register
- Providing ongoing monthly Continuing Professional Education information within OT Insight
- Providing LISTserv discussion forums for Special Interest Group members.

Strategic Goal 4: NZAOT has transparent quality assurance processes.

By:

- Drafting a Policy and Procedures Manual and completing a Policy & Procedures gap analysis.
- Establishing an orientation to Council programme for new Council members including orientation to role and governance

Strategic Goal 5: Members are involved in NZAOT local, national and international activities

By:

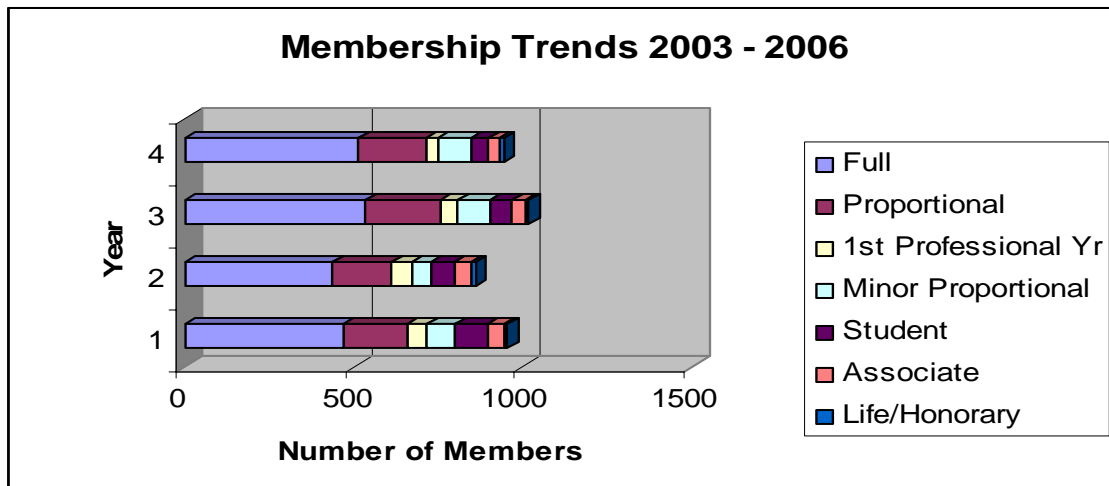
- Encouraging members to meet in Local Area networks:
- Establishing links with the College of Occupational Therapists (UK) and initiating the exchange of copies of the Association monthly magazines.
- Establishing an international database of occupational therapy associations
- Maintaining a reciprocal exchange of magazine articles with several Australian associations
- Maintaining links with the World Federation of Occupational Therapists though the NZAOT delegate –Clare Hocking (outgoing AGM 2005) and Alison Nelson (incoming AGM 2005)

Strategic Goal 6: Financial resources are managed effectively

By:

- Achieving a margin of financial empowerment and security.
- Being on target to achieve our five year plan to ensure that cash operating reserves grow from what was only 18 days in 2004 to a minimum of 180 days within 5 years.
- Monitoring and analysing membership statistics. The statistics suggest an average membership retention of 83% and a declining membership of minus 7%. Of interest – NZAOT appears to cyclically increase and decline membership concurrent with the biennial conference. Of concern is the low number of members in their first professional year – this appears to be declining.

NZAOT Membership Summary Statistics				
	2002-03 (Yr 1)	2003-04 (Yr 2)	2004-05 (Yr 3)	2005-06 (Yr 4)
Membership Total at year end	957	911	1020	944
Rate of Membership Growth	-1%	-5%	12%	-7%
Rate Membership Retention	-	82%	90%	83%
Market Penetration: (% of APC holders)	57%	51%	65%	51%



The Executive Director attending

- A Not for Profit Financial Management and Accounting Course
- Two Seminars & workshops on Building, Recruiting & retaining Members (accompanied by the NZAOT administration officer for one seminar).

Continuing the drive to recruit members

- Successful presentations to AUT University and Otago Polytechnic occupational therapy students resulted in an increased number of student members.
- A drive to recruit 1st professional Year membership drive had disappointing results

Strategic Goal 7: Members are aware of and satisfied with benefits and services.

By

- The ED and other members participating in the NZAOT stall at the 'Show Your Ability Road show' in four cities in North Island and two in the South Island. These proved extremely valuable in meeting with members; getting feedback and ensuring your awareness of all members' benefits. Detailed membership satisfaction with the Association and staff was obtained.
- Providing an additional benefit to members through the inauguration of the NZAOT Major Medical Plan – a private medical insurance exclusive to members of NZAOT through HSWS, Launched at the AGM

Strategic Goal 8: Awareness of the value of Occupational Therapy is increased among consumers, health professionals, funders and providers

By:

- Initiating the planning for Annual Occupational Therapy Awareness Week to begin October 2006 – and thereafter annually

Strategic Goal 9: NZAOT operates in a manner consistent with the Treaty of Waitangi

By:

- Creating and appointing to a Māori Representation Position on Council at the AGM

Staffing:

National office staffing has been consistent throughout this year. Shirlee Cantwell provides administrative support while Nadine Hardgrave manages our accounts part time. Both deserve thanks for their ongoing help to ensure the national office runs smoothly and members are supported.

Lastly, thanks also go to all the member volunteers to contribute to their professional association in a numerous ways. It has been a pleasure to work with the elected council and with members who have contributed for specific projects including the clinical workshops/conferences; convening LANs and SIGs; journal and magazine contributors as well those who have shared their expertise with representation issues.



Nancy Wright
President



Siobhan Molloy
Executive Director

Office Holders 2005-06

Council Members

Jane Wilson	outgoing President → incoming Past President 2005 AGM
Nancy Wright	outgoing President Elect → incoming President 2005 AGM
Robert Bull	Secretary (outgoing at 2005 AGM)
Trish Egan	Secretary (incoming at 2005 AGM)
Sally Ray	Treasurer
Karen Scott	Marketing and PR (outgoing at 2005 AGM)
Kathryn Edmands	Marketing and PR (incoming at 2005 AGM)
Denise Douglas	Professional Representation
Helen Jefferies/Robin Maclaclan	Professional Standards(outgoing at 2005 AGM)
Ellen Nicholson	Professional Standards (incoming at 2005 AGM)
Glenda Schnell	Research and Development
Jane Hopkirk	Maori Representation (incoming at 2005 AGM)

Treasurer's Report

This financial report for the Annual General Meeting is from NZAOT audited accounts to end of March 2006

Income

- Total income for the financial year was \$291,708 comparable to the 2005 year.

Despite a membership drop, there was an increase from subscriptions due to the increase in fees. Advertising and interest earned also increased. This is excellent as it is important to increase our revenue outside of subscriptions.

Expenditure

- Total expenses for the same period were \$220,560. Operational costs continue to be maintained as low as possible. Five percent of the surplus will be transferred into the Research and Education Trust. A small profit was achieved from the Driving Conference while the Clinical workshops broke even.

Net Surplus

- A net surplus of \$69,661 was achieved. This is the second year running that we have had a surplus of this considerable amount.

Total Equity

The total equity for the financial year ending 31 March 2006 is:

\$102,431	Retained earnings
<u>\$ 69,661</u>	Current year net surplus
\$172,092	Total Equity*

*The total equity is NZAOTs total assets (money in the bank and furniture/hardware and software owned) less any liabilities (money NZAOT owes others).

The NZAOT Council has put in place a 5 year plan to ensure NZAOTs ongoing financial empowerment in sustainability grows to a minimum of 180 trading days within 5 years. The growth in total equity is encouraging and NZAOT is well on target to achieve this goal comfortably.

Joining Fee

Council has voted to suspend Regulation 3.10.3 which relates to a joining fee from April 2007. The joining fee is not a high earner for new or lapsed members and is often perceived as a barrier to membership.

The audited annual financial statements and budgets for current and following financial year will be presented at the AGM and subsequently be available to all members in the member Only section of your web site.

Sally Wallace (nee Ray)
Treasurer NZAOT

Special Interest Groups

Adults working with Intellectual Disability

Members: 23

There is no report for the AWID SIG.

Children and Young Person's Occupational Therapy

Members: 129

The CHYPOT SIG members keep in touch primarily through the LISTServ. This year has seen three primary achievements for the SIG – the development of an NZAOT Position Statement around the role of Occupational Therapist's Working with Children, Young People, and their Families (still requiring tweaking, prior to submission to NZAOT Council for ratification – sorry team!) ; a mini-survey completed by Josie Giffney, OT at Mt. Roskill Intermediate, focusing on the seven survival skills of school leavers (watch out for a full report in OT Insight in the next few months!); and a mini-survey completed by me around why SIG members are members of the SIG, planned achievements for the coming year and how members will make this happen, and the three key tasks of the convenor of this SIG.

Those who did respond to the survey offered reasons for being members of the SIG such as feeling more connected to other therapists who are passionate about working with children, young people, and families across New Zealand; keeping informed about current practice and evidence for best practice; easy access to feedback. Two respondents noted that even though they are not currently working with children, being part of the SIG helps them work towards getting back into this area in the very near future. One respondent shared that she is part of the SIG as part of her continuing competency objectives.

Goals for the SIG this year focused around the further development of the LISTserv to share practical advice, experiences and resources, such as conferences, workshops, and continuing competence activities; as well as the publication of the Position Statement developed; and the more formal publication of resources (such as EBP Protocols and CATS) specific to paediatric practice on the NZAOT website and in the Journal. Respondents were keen to look out for ideas and information to share with other paediatric therapists. One respondent challenged other's to "broaden our range of interest/topics/ideas/requests...see more of our subscribers online [and] share more prepared information via attachments" and to ensure that the discussion threads are regularly archived for future retrieval.

Key tasks of the Convenor, as described by the respondents, were around "stimulating and maintaining the flow" of the LISTServ and providing a link between the SIG and current or innovative practice, professional development opportunities and NZAOT. The role is not onerous and can be fun. It can also be shared.

Given my commitments to other projects this year, I have decided to step down from the Convenor role this year. NZAOT would like to invite OT's interested in the convening the SIG to get in touch with National Office for more information.

Ellen Nicholson NZROT

Past Convenor CHYPOT SIG

Driver and Passenger Rehabilitation

Members: 29

The year has been highlighted by ongoing issues related to older driver licensing, funding of driver assessment and a special interest group conference.

Following discontent amongst some older drivers, government established a review of older driver licensing policy. NZAOT Executive Director, and Kevin O'Leary continued to represent occupational therapy interests at the Review of Older Driver Licensing Policy – Stakeholder Consultative Group. Changes to the licensing process come into effect in December 2006. These do not affect our practice as such.

Concerns regarding funding of driver assessment remain since the enforcement of eligibility criteria policy. The Ministry of Health has enforced eligibility criteria for vehicle and modification funding to assessment funding. The move from the Ministry of Health has to some extent increased similar funding across the country with some exceptions. This SIG believes it is still inequitable for people with a need who do not meet the criteria, eg a 45 year old with multiple sclerosis who is no longer able to work and can not move right foot between the pedals does not qualify for assessment funding. A letter was sent to various ministers, asking that consideration be given to the proposal to fully fund Occupational Therapy Driving Assessments across all ages. We are still waiting for the final decision.

Karen Gallagher continues to represent occupational therapists on the VANZ committee. Changes have been made to the LVVC process, requiring a declaration from the occupational therapist that the hand control suits the client's needs.

In October Jane Hazlett and Barbara Steptoe convened an excellent lively three day conference in Nelson. A wide range of issues were covered including practice and assessment issues, Ministry of Health and ACC policies.

Barbara Steptoe NZROT

Convenor Drivers and Passenger Rehabilitation SIG

Independent Practitioners

Members: 142

This group has been very active via the web site over the past twelve months. The web site has provided to be a valuable tool to discuss issues in common and as a resource for sharing information. Independent practitioners often are

in the position that communication with other therapist is more limited and this tool is assisting with preventing professional isolation.

Major topics of discussions have been - contracts, resources and problem solving.

Member of this group are very appreciative of the time and effort that the New Zealand Association of Occupational Therapy are putting into this Special Interest Group.

This group has been without a convenor for much of this year. NZAOT would like to invite OT's interested in the convening the SIG to get in touch with National Office for more information.

*Allison McNamara NZROT
Independent SIG member*

Management

Members: 58

The purpose of the Occupational Therapy Management Special Interest Group is to support current and aspiring occupational therapy managers in their work by having a confidential forum in which to share issues, information and strategies.

Membership:

Members are from all over New Zealand. They have a wide range of experience, from novice managers/leaders to many years of leading occupational therapy through the various health reforms. The majority of the members are employed by DHBs, and are in the physical field of health.

Meetings:

This year, 20 members met at the annual face-to-face meeting in Hastings, in conjunction with the Clinical Workshops. Thereafter, there have been six-weekly audio-conferences, alternating on Wednesdays and Mondays to enable as many members to join as work allows.

Content:

This year, the topics explored were:

1. Terms of reference of OT Management SIG have been updated and can be found on the NZAOT Website.
2. Strategies used to recruitment and retain staff, and workforce development: a wide variety of strategies were identified, from taking students, mentoring Secondary school students, assisting with child care costs, and attending job expos in New Zealand and in the UK.
3. Managing short-term loan equipment: how does each DHB managing equipment access, and the advantages and disadvantages of each method; Southland's pilot project with EnableNZ and ACC, and computer-

based ordering, tracking and swapping system; developing standards and training for equipment prescription.

4. A report on the leadership programme run by DHBNZ and the Ministry of Health for Health sector managers and clinical leaders.
5. Review of NZAOT's Occupational Therapy process standards, and using them in the workplace, and the need for a refined documentation audit tool.
6. Discussion of OTBNZ's competencies for practice, and their applicability to OT Managers, Professional Leaders/Advisors, Team and Clinical Leaders.
7. Met with Sue Primrose (Ministry of Health), Wynne Donovan (*accessible*), Nicole Parry and Rachel Tatham (Enable NZ) to discuss ESS equipment issues. This clarified expectations of therapists and how to manage consumer expectations also. Further discussion and debate is required within the profession about occupational therapists' responsibilities in housing, and the level of technical drawing expertise required.
8. Occupational Therapists' role within PHOs is discussed as progress is made within DHBs.
9. The listserv is active and has enabled us to make submissions or comment on draft documents related to occupational therapy workforce or practice issues.

Thanks are due to Mary Bird for her work as the convenor again this year, and to the members of the Special Interest Group for their willingness to answer the calls for information and help. You all make this a very successful and warm group to belong to.

Marie Chester NZROT
On behalf of Mary Bird, Convenor

Mental Health

Members: 86

Membership of the SIG continues to grow and provide a supportive network to therapists working in mental health.

Over the past 12 months this SIG has not been as active as it was in the first 18 months of its life. It rears into life from time to time when therapists ask a specific question related to clinical practice and then there tends to be a flurry of action with ideas, sharing and suggestions coming forward from all over the country.

The SIG did not meet at the Hawkes Bay Clinical Workshops in Sept 2005 due to low numbers of SIG members attending the workshops. This was an opportunity lost for the SIG to further consolidate itself and relationships between members. A call has gone out to the SIG for the upcoming NZAOT

Conference in September to take the opportunity to convene as it did at the 2004 conference.

April's OT Insight magazine saw it being a bumper issue of sharing mental health clinical practice – that was the SIG's main focus earlier this year and there have been suggestions that we do this each year. A planned approach to this would be a focus of the SIG into the future. The SIG still needs to make use of the members only section of the website and this again needs to be a focus for the coming year.

Dale Rook NZROT
Convenor Mental Health SIG

Neurology

Members: 216

Membership includes:

- Range from DHB hospital based to community private practice.
- Range from new grads to those with over 30 yrs experience.
- Range of countries worked in other than NZ includes, UK, South Africa, Russia, Holland, Germany and Ireland.

The Neurology SIG is a new group formed in 2005. Feedback from SIG members about the group has been positive; here are some examples below;

“I have followed the discussions with interest, and looked up the references referred to...”

“I think it is a great opportunity to have a tool that you can use to search for answers and new perspectives. For me it reduced the isolation as a private practitioner...”

“The discussions were very stimulating and I certainly have been left with lots of thoughts and challenges. “

“[This] SIG is an excellent, instant sounding board and a way to keep in touch with others in working with similar clients...”

“This group is particularly essential for those working more in isolation such as rural settings...”

“It has been a wonderful source of resources, advice, knowledge and networking”

The Neurology SIG provides occupational therapists with a forum for raising issues, discussion, and sharing of resources. Members appear to have made use of resources placed on the NZAOT website.

Discussions to date have included;

- Models of practice
- Somato- sensory loss
- Traumatic Brain Injury and substance use
- Traumatic Brain Injury and psychiatric conditions
- Cognitive assessments
- Cognitive Rehab Therapy

The activity on the LISTserv varies, some topics stimulate a lot of debate and we hope to continue to promote this and are considering the introduction of a monthly “hot topic” to stimulate debate.

We would like to encourage local meetings however these depend on having members having the time and energy to organise and co-ordinate these. Auckland continues to meet on a six weekly basis and non-members attending are encouraged to join the NZAOT and have access to the LISTserv and resources.

Shona Paterson NZROT
Convenor Neurology SIG

Occupational Therapy Supervision

Members to date: 53

The Occupational Therapy Supervision Special Interest Group (OTSSIG) commenced in December 2005 following ratification by the NZAOT Council. OTSSIG emerged as a result of increasing email discussions by NZAOT members on other NZAOT member LISTservs. It serves the purpose of facilitating in-depth discussion and professional inquiry into supervision by those occupational therapists who are interested in gaining an understanding of supervision. Membership to this LISTserv includes those who are currently providing and/or receiving supervision, and those who are interested in the topic of supervision. Guidelines have been formulated regarding participation in the group and a copy of the guidelines is available in the Members Only section of our web site.

OTSSIG Mission Statement:

The NZAOT Occupational Therapy Supervision Special Interest Group (OTSSIG) exists for the benefit of NZAOT members, both supervisor and supervisee and other health professionals on the NZAOT Supervision Register, who wish to obtain support and education; be involved in development of policies, procedures and processes; discuss, debate and advocate for this essential area that strengthens occupational therapy practice

The OTSSIG goal is to build an online community (and an offline one) that actively engages in supervision inquiry; the sharing of experiences; building our collective knowledge of supervision; experimentation, and critical reflection.

There are **three conveners** for the OTSSIG. Their task is primarily to create a healthy environment for experiential learning through discussion on the LISTserv, as well ensure good “netiquette” if followed during email discussions. The following principles are adhered to by OTSSIG members:

- confidentiality and respect
- interesting/useful conversations/debates that are managed by the conveners
- questions and responses on supervision promoted and encouraged
- archiving of this information.

Currently discussions are taking place between convenors about the best way to store responses from online discussions so that they may be accessible and readable for future reference by therapists and/or NZAOT Council. Subscribers will also be invited to suggest ways that this information can meet their needs.

Discussion Topics

During the short time the group has been operating the following topics have been raised

- Training in Supervision – courses and certificates?
- What is the role of a competency supervisor?
- As a Supervisor what information does one enter on HCC – confidentiality issues
- Who takes responsibility for competency? Where does the buck stop?
- Service attitudes towards supervision of their OT’s – Who pays?
- Sharing publications on supervision
- Ethical considerations within supervision – confidentiality/harassment issues

Ann Christie NZROT

Carolyn Simmons Carlsson NZROT

Merrolee Penman NZROT

Joint Convenors Occupational Therapy Supervision SIG

Occupational Therapist Working With Older People

Members: 89

The ‘Occupational Therapists Working with Older People’ (OTWWOP) Special Interest Group has continued over this past year with involvement from therapists’ working in most regions across New Zealand. A concentration of members has continued to meet regularly in Hamilton and Auckland. The key activities of the Special Interest Group over this past year have included:

1. The ListSERV has continued to provide a forum for members to discuss issues, offer ideas, and support. Practical suggestions have been offered for members seeking information for new initiatives.

2. The Auckland OTWWOP members developed and submitted the Position Statement "*The role of occupational therapists working with older people in residential care*". Feedback was provided from SIG members and the wider occupational therapy community. This was a challenging process, not least because of the length of time, and the tenacity, required to develop a position statement from scratch and then incorporate feedback from occupational therapists nationwide.
3. Regular meetings in the Hamilton and Auckland regions. Hamilton has met every two months. Auckland held monthly meetings, however will continue with two-monthly meetings in the future. Attendance at meetings fluctuates and finding a time for all members to attend remains a challenge, particularly in the Auckland area.
4. A large group of members and other interested occupational therapists' attended the Focus of the Future Forum in Hamilton last year. The forum was a successful event with good discussion. The 'things we are doing well' were celebrated and the opportunities for proactive practice highlighted. A number of key outcomes and ways forward were identified and later published in Insight.

The generous support of a number of members and their initiative has contributed to the activities achieved over this past year. I would like to thank them for their support and assistance. In looking to the future, specific members have identified the value of meeting together to support ongoing professional development, to exchange information, to provide one another support and to discuss professional issues. For those members who are unable to attend a regional meeting, the ListSERV remains a forum that can be accessed to support these activities.

Kate Weidenbohm
OTWWOP SIG Convenor

Physical Community

Members: 5

Since its inception in February 2006 on Topica site we have had an insightful discussion around obesity funding as affecting clients in the community.

As the group is expanding I foresee this information sharing and discussion group leading to possible growth, education, development of physical community practice among association members in New Zealand.

It will increase networking within the membership and enable quick and valuable sharing of knowledge in this area of practice. At this point in time the group has only met part of its set objectives; however the others will evolve as the group develops.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Siobhan for assisting in the inception of this group.

Joanne Harper NZROT
Convenor Physical Community SIG

Rheumatology

Members: 11

The Rheumatology Special Interest Group was established in 2005. As a relatively new SIG, we are continuing to develop.

The LISTserv has been the main method of communication between members to this point. Discussion within the group has mostly been around sharing resources – it has been valuable being able to obtain and share information with other group members, around areas such as patient education information; and sharing and learning about upcoming events such as workshops.

It is hoped that the group will continue to develop, and that we will be able to have ongoing discussion that can improve our work as Occupational Therapists within the area of Rheumatology.

Sarah Thompson NZROT
Karen Wilson NZROT
Convenors Rheumatology SIG

World Federation of Occupational Therapist Delegate

WFOT Membership

NZAOT continues to maintain country membership of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists, with financial commitments up to date.

The location of the WFOT Congress in Sydney in July has raised awareness of WFOT and provided opportunity for recruitment, with an increase in individual membership from 42 in September 2005, to 69.

Communication - National

WFOT News has continued to be published monthly in Insight and the addition of the WFOT logo has highlighted a visual link with the organization. News material has focused on information about WFOT itself, along with items from the website and a range of international health related information. The WFOT President and Executive Director contributed a personal message, which may have helped to bring them a little closer.

The year has seen a major increase in activity related to occupational therapy in disaster situations and the World Federation has laid the groundwork for future initiatives in this and related areas. Therapists have been encouraged to join in discussion and reflection on OT involvement in these situations, particularly from a NZ perspective. We will have opportunity to be involved and some of this work has been referenced in the WFOT News.

Communication – International

Many overseas therapists have taken advantage of the NZ information on the website and communicated by email to enquire about study opportunities, working in NZ, or applying for student placements here. These enquiries have been promptly responded to, mainly by giving contact details of the OT Board, NZAOT and in some instances, the Training Schools.

Requests for specific information related to WFOT Project work, or for use as reference on the website, such as requirements for employment in NZ, have also been actioned through the NZAOT Executive Director's office.

Submissions to WFOT Bulletin

Ellen Nicholson's submission for New Zealand on evidence based practice was peer reviewed and published in the WFOT Bulletin in May 2006. Congratulations to Ellen, for the high quality of her work.

New Zealand News has been published also in the May Bulletin and on the WFOT website.

WFOT Approval of Schools of Occupational Therapy

The 5 yearly review of the educational programmes at our two occupational therapy programmes was initiated as well as an application from a proposed new programme at Wintec Polytechnic in Hamilton.

Acknowledgement

I wish to acknowledge the significant work that Clare Hocking accomplished in her 8 years as NZAOT Delegate to WFOT. Her collaboration with Nils Erik Ness in the revision of the Minimum Standards of Practice and subsequent work on approval and evaluation of educational programmes is a substantial contribution to our profession and the education of occupational therapists.

WFOT has recognized Clare's contribution to the work of the Federation and to the Occupational Therapy profession, in awarding her with an Honorary Fellowship. This is a prestigious award, given to very few - an achievement to celebrate!

Alison Nelson

NZAOT Delegate to WFOT

Cornerstone Programme

Following the introduction of the Occupational Therapy Board's Recertification process in 2004, no new members have been accepted into the Cornerstone Programme. The programme has continued for those already enrolled. This means that enrolled members remain eligible to receive a Cornerstone Certificate when they submit evidence of completing all requirements for the period of their enrolment.

Clare Hocking and Christine Rigby continue in their role as Cornerstone Monitors, and are willing to see current members to completion.

Cornerstone Activity for 2005 – 2006

Completed Members:

Ellen Nicholson
Sarah Smith

Cornerstone Number 95
Cornerstone Number 86

October 2005
March 2006

Withdrawn or Did Not Complete within enrolment period:
Membership Numbers 83, 88, 41, and 72.

Current Membership

There are nine current members, due to complete as follows:

Due to complete (year)	Cornerstone number and due date
2006	96 01/03/2006 73 01/08/2006 84 07/09/2006
2007	90 18/03/2007 85 20/08/2007
2008	98 01/08/2008
2009	76 19/03/2009 92 01/08/2009
2010	91 11/03/2010

Implications for NZAOT

Keeping the Cornerstone Programme in place for these nine members has the following implications for NZAOT:

- Each member represents a \$100.00 liability to NZAOT, in that should they submit a final submission, NZAOT will be liable to pay the monitors fee.
- NZAOT will need to keep a stock on Cornerstone certificates until 2010.

Clare Hocking & Christine Rigby
Cornerstone Monitors

New Zealand Journal of Occupational Therapy

Management and development

Manuscripts

- Incoming manuscripts assessed, categorised and send out for review
- Potential reviewers canvassed
- Review feedback coordinated and sent to authors
- Authors assisted with revision of manuscripts as required
- Manuscripts edited as necessary to achieve the standard required for publication in NZJOT
- Liaison with publisher Julian Bateson to finalise content of the Journal publications
- Sought advice and supervision from former editor Clare Hocking
- Liaison with the Association Executive Director as required
- Responded to queries about the Journal
- Requested Beth Gordon to publish snippets from the history of NZJOT – Practice Foundations.

Committee members

- Communicated with all members of the editorial committee
- Reviewed and revised editorial committee membership roles
- Recruited Rowena Scaletti as assistant editor.

Content

- Editorial written
- Page two edited and rewritten
- Guidelines to authors rewritten
- Contacted publisher to discuss the consistency of headings and sub headings, as well as publication errors.

Strategic planning

- Review other similar publications to find a job description for assistant editors and review board
- Encourage therapists to write about occupational therapy practice in New Zealand for publication in NZJOT
- Look at ways to support budding authors – mentoring, nurturing
- Consider new category for publication of practice based manuscripts
- Evaluate issues of standard and quality i.e. practice based manuscripts may not achieve the academic standard currently required for publication in NZJOT
- Compare professional content in NZJOT in relation to the international context
- Develop a format to facilitate positive feedback from reviewers.

Grace O'Sullivan NZROT
Editor

Research and Education Trust

At the AGM last year decisions were made to put energy into the Research and Education trust, in both a structural and a financial sense.

Since then Council, the Executive Director and the current trustees have worked together and decided to:

- Reword the Trust document to remove the role of Patron as a trustee (no longer a position in the Association)
- Separate the advice on the location of the monies from the trustees to an experienced independent financial advisor who is not a trustee
- Maintain the number of trustees at three.
- Clarify the roles related to fundraising, administration, management and disbursement of the trusts resources.

The Executive director and the association office will provide secretarial and operational support to the trust.

The Association will take responsibility for fundraising.

The trustees will take decisions on the financial management of the trust from an independent financial advisor.

The trustees will disburse the trust funds according to the terms of the trust, when the capital is such that there is interest to disburse.

The Association has flagged its intention to return to making annual contributions to the trust which now has over \$30,000. Disbursements look closer.

The amendment of the document to reflect these decisions is expected to be completed by the end of October.

One of the Trustees (Valerie Wright - St Clair) and has indicated that she will not continue as a trustee following the AGM. Linda Wilson has indicated her preparedness to continue. There are therefore vacancies for two trustees who are appointed by the AGM.

For the Trustees

Linda H Wilson