

August 2026



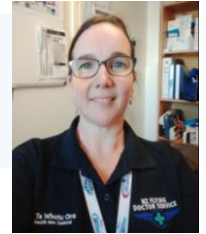
COASTN
Providing Excellence in Transport Nursing
NZNO



Sunset – Photo supplied by Mark Geikenjoyner, Nelson

College of Air and Surface Transport Nurses
College of the New Zealand Nurses Organisation

From the Editor – Tania Parr



Kia ora koutou katoa,

Welcome to the August edition of the COASTN E mag. Winter has certainly made itself known this year, and I felt like I was travelling with half the world's population on a recent holiday with the family in Wanaka, and then travelling through the hoar frosts in Omarama to Tekapo. The secrets of our beautiful country are out, and everyone was travelling to see the spectacular snowy frosty scenes of the south!

I do need to apologize to the Life Flight team in Waikato who I did not realise were a separate entity to the Waikato ICU flight team, and had lumped their story into the Waikato ICU section. Every flight team across Aotearoa operates so differently, and I am still learning about who does what. I also managed to accidentally crop off the names of the flight nurses on the photo they supplied, sometimes when the working document becomes the published PDF it alters the layout, and sometimes bits get missed (especially when I am trying to get it published whilst multi tasking other jobs) so again I am so sorry Life Flight Waikato. I will try to do better.

On that note, the value in your service updates is immense, through sharing what your service does, and how it operates helps us all understand, and may assist a team who is needing assistance or advice for a transfer. So thank you to you all who contribute to this magazine, your input is very much appreciated!

Avryl and Kylie and the team in Waikato have been busy working away on this years conference organizing, and I hope many of you can join us this year in September, there is still time to register so make sure you do!

We have a number of vacancies in the committee coming up, so if you have ever thought joining the committee looked like a bit of you, we would love for you to join us. See position descriptions and links to nominate in this edition.

Remember, you are welcome to send me your stories, photos, articles anytime.

Tania.parr@nmdhb.govt.nz – I'd love to hear from you!!!

Please take note, the next edition is due out in December.

Hoping you all stay warm out there!

Nga Mihi

Tania

Did you know that COASTN is on social media?

Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/250823442046051/?ref=share>
and on Instagram <https://instagram.com/nznocoastn?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

Chair Report – Andy Gibbs



I sit here writing this wondering where the year has gone, it seems only yesterday that I was writing the April update. The days are rapidly getting longer and I have spring flowers in the garden with the first of my confused daffodils out – spring is on its way ☺ but I'm sure we will experience a few cold snaps before then.

The past month has been a busy time in the flight world with many services reaching out to and working with their regional teams to move patients in the most timely and appropriate ways. It's great to see teams working together in this space.

We farewell our Annie our professional nurse advisor (PNA) early July who is bound for retirement, travels, time with family and Nana duty. We wish her well in this and had an unofficial send off for her at our last face to face meeting. She has put together some words which you will find later in this eMag. With Annie leaving, we have recently welcomed Vicki Janse as the new PNA to the COASTN team. Vicki is rapidly orientating herself to all things COASTN. It was great to meet with her via teams last week and tell her of the exciting work the committee has been doing. We look forward to meeting her in person in September at the symposium and AGM.

COASTN has an increasing presence in the Aeromedical Commissioning Programme space with both college and committee members representing in working groups last year. As one of the flight coordinators for Wellington Aeromedical Retrieval Service (WARS) I was involved in the dispatch and coordination group. Further to this, I have recently spent a week visiting both Retrieval Services Queensland (RSQ) and Air Ambulance Victoria (AAV) both as the Chair of COASTN and a subject matter expert. It was a great opportunity to look at what models and technology are currently being used. We are looking forward to a visit to NSW in the coming weeks before feeding back a summary of the findings.

Prior to this trip I took the opportunity to visit the National Air desk to better understand how rotor wing aircraft are tasked and dispatched for both pre-hospital and Inter-Hospital transport in New Zealand. This was a busy day as I observed the call takers on 111 lines, dispatchers for the road ambulances, PTS ambulance dispatchers and the wide array of requests they manage before meeting with the airdesk team. This provided me with more understanding of how the roter-wing aircraft are tasked and dispatched but also who they are being tasked by. Again, understanding the different technology they have to oversee assets and their point in a journey was great.

Please keep an eye out on the Aeromedical Commissioning Programme website and sign up to the newsletters if you are interested. The Clinical Technical Advisory Group (CTAG) will be refreshed and expressions of interest will soon be sent out for representation in the detailed design and implementation working groups. The most recent newsletter can be viewed following the QR code attached.



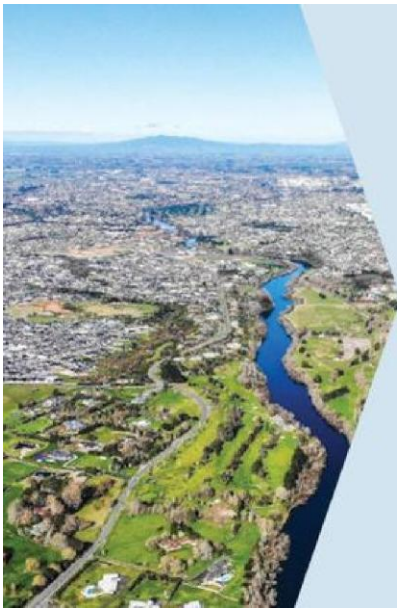
Behind the scenes the committee are continuing to work on the COASTN resources attached to our website. There has been some great work coming through but we anticipate this will continue for some time yet. Helen is doing a great job updating the COASTN aeromedical course. Please see the save the date for next year's course 15-18 February.

30 Years: Past, Present and Future. Avryl and Kylie are working hard to present an amazing symposium in the sunny Waikato – the programme for this is looking fantastic and so great to hear that some of our original flight nurses will be coming along. Time to dust off some of the old "Up and Away" magazines. We look forward to hearing about the history of flight nursing from one of the originals, Sally.

With the symposium comes the presentation of the **COASTN nurse of the year award** <https://www.nzno.org.nz/Portals/0/Files/Documents/Groups/Flight%20Nurses/2026/2026-COASTN-Nurse-of-the-Year-criteria-and-nomination-form.pdf> which comes with a \$1000 scholarship. Submissions close 15 August so get writing.

AGM – the COASTN AGM will be held during the symposium on Friday 4 September. A team's link will be sent out to all members nearer the time. Sadly we will say goodbye to three committee members at the AGM so looking for some enthusiastic members to take their place. Patrice has been our secretary for 6 years now and is able to capture the pivotal points of our chatter with amazing accuracy. Are you the person to take her place? Avryl is our vice-chair and has managed our social media presence and works tirelessly with NZNO to keep our website updated – is this up your alley? We also sadly say goodbye to Rose, who brought so much enthusiasm with her. If this is something that may interest you, please fill out the nomination form linked to the committee tab on the COASTN website [Download the nomination form](#). Patrice and Avryl have put together a brief summary of their roles which can be found at the end of this emag.

For now, stay safe and keep warm. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Waikato to celebrate 30 years.



COASTN CONFERENCE 2026

30 Years: Past, Present, Future

**Hamilton, Novotel Hamilton Tainui
3–4 September 2026**



Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa
NEW ZEALAND NURSES ORGANISATION

Join us as COASTN celebrates 30 years of advancing aeromedical and road transport nursing.

Our 2026 Conference is an opportunity to connect with colleagues, learn, share experiences, and contribute to the ongoing advancement of our nursing specialty.

[Explore the Programme Here](#)

[Register Today](#)

Conference Partner



Sponsors



Farewell from Annie

And so, it is time for me to farewell NZNO and nursing.

Firstly- how did I get to work with the stunning nurses of the College of Air and Surface Transport Nurses (COASTN), NZNO?

Well, I trained in Whanganui Hospital some 49 years ago then moved to Hamilton to work in CCU at Waikato DHB. This I did on and off for many years returning after brief breaks for children and a brief stint in the private sector. From there I spent time in the UK as a Cardiology Nurse advisor for a primary care trust (community based) and I started back at Waikato DHB on my return but this time in rural and community services eventually taking on the Clinical Nurse Director role. In a chance meeting with a very dear school friend who worked for NZNO I decided working for this important professional organisation and union was the direction I wanted to take.



When I joined NZNO as a PNA in 2015 the now College of Air and Surface Transport Nurses (COASTN) was a Section. On discussion with the Committee of the time, it was decided to try to achieve College Status. With great dedication and much effort to fulfil the internationally prescribed criteria the College of Air and Surface Transport Nurses (COASTN), NZNO came into being when the NZNO Board formally granted this status and title in 2017. There were great celebrations!

In the following nine years the College Committee, in consultation with its members have developed, reviewed and updated essential Transport Standards documents in line with international requirements, developed position statements, provided submissions/feedback to the Government through representation on relevant national groups, developed strong relationships with other like-minded organisations, provided the 5 day course that is now internationally subscribed to and regularly provided annual symposiums for its members and the wider community of health professionals involved with patient transport. All of this has happened through some really trying times.

The tireless work of the national committee members, of whom there have been so many over the last eleven years must be acknowledged. So, I say very special thanks to those Committee members, each and every one of you (you know who you are) who have done the mahi and who now continue the mahi to help nurses safely manage and improve patient transport around the motu. More personally you have made my role at NZNO hugely interesting, positive and for the most part great fun. I feel so very privileged and proud to have worked with you all.

Goodbye now and I know the next PNA that supports your College will bring fresh ideas, enthusiasm, great knowledge and strength so that you can continue being the very best (transport) nurses you can be.

I, on the other hand will be reading, doting on my hubby and grandkids, cooking and baking up a storm, watching F1 (sport in general, actually), fishing, walking, spending time with my precious cousins and friends, playing tennis ...

COASTN Award 2026



Who is your pick for 2026 Transport Nurse of the Year? Do you know a transport nurse who has gone above and beyond and displays excellence in the field of transport nursing? Then why not look at nominating them for this prestigious award. Click [here](#) and tell us why Nurse of the Year. Get in Quick **nominations close 15th August 2026**.

Aeromedical Commissioning Programme

See the Aeromedical Commissioning Programme Update for July 2026 here:

www.healthnz.govt.nz/news-and-updates/aeromedical-commissioning-programme-update-jul-2026

If you would like to be added to the ACP mailing list email the Air Ambulance Team at:
airambulanceteam@tewhatuora.govt.nz

Regional Updates

Waikato Intensive Care Unit Transport Team

Winter has been well and truly upon us over the last couple of weeks – with fog affecting and delaying flights and some very chilly nights up in the air flying. Despite this, our team has continued to keep busy retrieving patients from within the Te Manawa Taki Region.

We have recently welcomed Kath to our transport team. Kath brings to our team a great depth of critical care nursing skills and we are looking forward to her being a part of our team. As well as orientating Kath, we welcome our new group of ICU registrars to the transport team as their rotation changes next month.

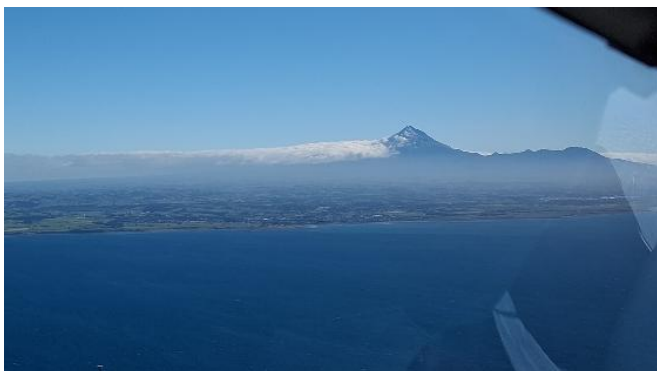


We are looking forward to seeing flight nurses from across Aotearoa and the COASTN committee here in Hamilton in November for the COASTN symposium.

I have included some photos from some of our recent flights which this month features many of the beautiful mountains that we see as we travel across our country.



Melissa Evelyn
ACNM/ Flight Nurse
Waikato Critical Care Department



Waikato NICU Retrieval Team

Hello from the cold, frosty Waikato! The crisp morning air and sparkling frost are a reminder that winter has well and truly arrived.

As is usually the case during the winter months, our main mode of transport has predominately been by road.

However, we've been fortunate to enjoy several beautiful, clear winter days that have allowed us to take to the skies and enjoy some scenic helicopter flights.



Overall, it's been a relatively quiet few months for our team, possibly the calm before the storm!

One of the highlights is the Annual COASTN Conference, which is being held in our home region this year. With the conference taking place in Hamilton, we're excited that six members of our team will have the opportunity to attend. It's a fantastic chance to connect with colleagues, and learn from others across the network.



Hawkes Bay Flight Team

Jackie Hardy CNM

June proved to be a much quieter month for the Hawke's Bay Flight Team, reflecting the overall activity across the hospital, which remained in green status for much of the month. While this period of reduced demand was welcome, it was short-lived. As winter progressed, the familiar challenges of seasonal illness, bed pressures, and increasing transfer requests quickly returned, bringing flight activity back to its usual pace.

One of the highlights of the past few months has been the growth of our team. We have welcomed five new flight nurses, including one returning to the service and four nurses completely new to the aeromedical environment. The arrival of new team members serves as a valuable reminder of what makes flight nursing so rewarding. It creates opportunities for experienced staff to share their knowledge, support professional development, and mentor the next generation of flight clinicians.

The enthusiasm, commitment, and professionalism demonstrated by our new nurses have been outstanding. Watching them develop their skills and confidence in this unique environment reinforces the importance of fostering a strong learning culture within the team.

A New Addition to the Fleet

Another significant milestone has been the arrival of our new H145 helicopter. While we are working through a few expected teething issues that come with any new aircraft, it is exciting to have such a modern addition to our service.



The H145 offers several enhancements, including a climate-controlled cabin, greater operational range, and Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) capability. These improvements will further support our ability to provide safe, reliable, and efficient patient transport throughout Hawke's Bay and beyond. Having a brand-new aircraft is a rare opportunity and one that has generated considerable excitement among both clinical and aviation crews.

Commitment to Excellence

Education and training continue to be a cornerstone of our service. We have completed all of our annual Education and Professional Competency (EPC) requirements, including scenario-based training days and clinical skills assessments. Maintaining and enhancing clinical competence is an ongoing commitment, ensuring our team remains prepared to deliver high-quality care in the challenging and dynamic aeromedical environment.

Wellington Aeromedical Retrieval Service or WARS!

We have continued to be pretty busy with many days having all three day nurses out and about and the night too. We have a flight coordinator rostered on every day of the week, except on Public Holidays.



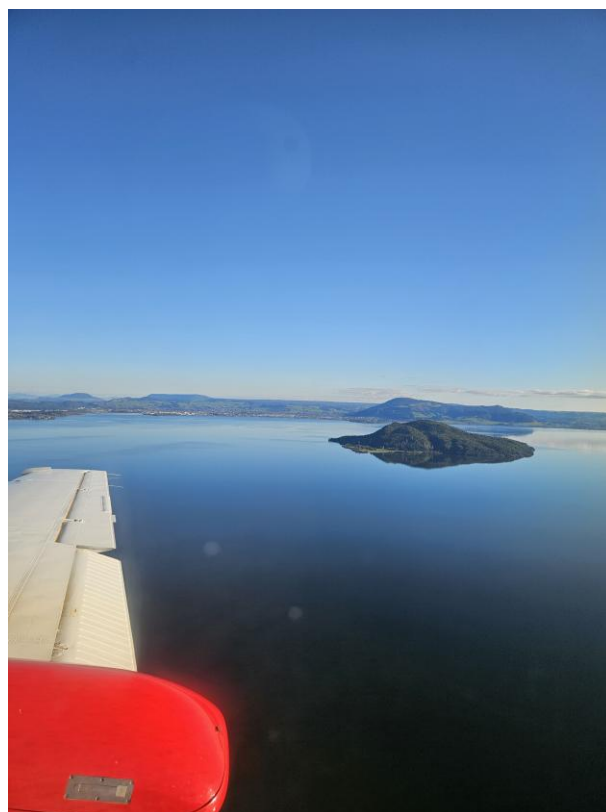
Rush hour on the western apron

The coordinator daily update with flight services in the central region continues to work well. At 9am we have a zoom call and find out who's going where. One example of where this collaboration worked well was learning that Whanganui was taking a patient to Auckland with an empty return leg. We had a patient to return to Wellington from Auckland. Meanwhile, we were already going to ChCh return and then had an acute from Taranaki to retrieve. Then, Neonates had to retrieve a sick baby in plane #3. So I was very grateful that we

were not going to Auckland – and even more so when a sick child also needed transporting ... just as well the heli was available.

The benefits of understanding where the aircraft and resources benefits us all.

We are also transporting a number of larger people. The main limiting factor for our aircraft is the width of the patient, rather than the weight and the girth. As you know aircraft stretchers are pretty narrow, even for regular sized people, so we ask for a form to be filled in to calculate the width at the widest parts (sometimes it's hips, other times shoulders), and have the form signed by 2 nurses as being accurate. Unfortunately, we have arrived to find it was incorrectly filled in and found the patient was too wide for the stretcher. This has resulted in a wasted journey, and significant time delays along with a pricey bill for hospitals that were not the home domicile.



Rotorua

Along with the width of the patient is the problem of getting an accurate weight. It helps to know where in your hospital there are bed scales available. It is near impossible to guess these weights, one of our largest reported weights being out by 70kg! Lifelight have a new bariatric stretcher that is close to being in use and will hopefully further help in moving this patient group and provide a more comfortable ride.



Kathy and Sarah in the Simulator

And finally, we have two new Movie Stars! Kathy and Lisa were interviewed in our flight simulator on the Breakfast show. They were such good ambassadors for Flight Nurses! They were so good, I thought they had pre knowledge of the interviewer's questions. The flight simulator is a popular "good news story" and was also on RNZ

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/health/622127/the-aeroplane-inside-wellington-hospital-you-probably-don-t-know-about>

Enjoy and we hope to see some familiar faces at the symposium in September!



Nothing beats Wellington on a sunny day! Perfect for a heli transfer and views over the harbour

New Zealand Flying Doctors Service – Nelson/Whakatū

Kia Ora from Sunny Nelson!

There certainly have been some fresh mornings here in Nelson, but those fresh starts turn into lovely sunny bluebird skies.

We have continued to be our usual busy, with an upcoming cath lab outage while it gets an upgrade in August-October meaning our workload is set to get even busier with the plans to send all top of the south STEMI's to Wellington and all NSTEMI's to Christchurch, which is also going to add pressure to our tertiary centres.

This year we are lucky enough to send 2 nurses to Hamilton for the conference thanks to the NZFDS Trust.

We are busy planning our next annual flight training days in September and October, with this year adding in some water survival training, as most of us last did this many years ago when we first did the Wellington flight course. This should be a bit of fun, working with the local coastguard using a life raft in the wave pool – will make for some good photos no doubt! And a great bit of team building.



Dreaming of Summer! Split Apple Rock - Kaiteriteri



New Zealand Flying Doctors Service – Christchurch/ Ōtautahi

Kia ora koutou

Canterbury Air Retrieval Service (CARS) has had a steady stream of work over the winter months – along with quite a few foggy nights and frosty mornings to contend with. Luckily, we received a very kind donation of knitted hats from a local group of volunteers, to keep all our patients nice and warm!

From an operational perspective, our aircraft provider Garden City Helicopters Aviation has recently purchased and received delivery of new H145 rotary wing aircraft, as well as an additional King Air fixed wing aircraft – making a total of 4 fixed wing aircraft to be shared between its Christchurch and Nelson bases. For our team, this has created a recent focus on education related to new aircraft configurations, stretchers and clinical equipment requirements. We were fortunate to be able to cover a large part of this content at our annual flight study day which took place in July.

Finally, CARS are very grateful to the NZ Flying Doctors Trust, which has provided funding for both nurses and midwives within our team to attend the Aeromed conference in Darwin, as well as this year's COASTN conference. Looking forward to catching up with many of you there!

Happy flying to you all

The CARS team



Dunedin – Southern Critical Care Flight Team

Hi from the South. It's that time of year when winter really bites adding challenges to all of us trying to transfer patients around the motu! Also makes training our new cohort of ICU registrars a bit more interesting – especially with the threat of an arctic blast for the country this week ☺

However, in true Kiwi fashion we plan to just get on with it & adapt things if we need to. On the up side it can make for beautiful photos, the down side means that patients may not be able to be retrieved / transferred to receive the specialist care they require & the local teams caring for them are having to cope (often with sick patients that they do not have the resources or skills to care for).



Queenstown mountains

Interesting transfers that have been undertaken lately include transferring some long-term patients from our local substandard Intellectual Disability unit around the country to other facilities. Picture if you can the preparation that is required to anaesthetise a patient who would not cope with transfer while awake & aware – with the entire process being undertaken at a psychiatric facility absolutely not equipped to provide RSI – undertaking the transfer to another similar facility, then having to

de-sedate, extubate & recover the patient like any PACU team! You have to provide EVERYTHING, plan for all contingencies, and have enough equipment to restock things in order to be operational if you are tasked with another mission on the way home! It truly has been a team effort: from the initial approach to our Flight team coordinators Amie & Esther, the involvement of our SMO team lead Hans (to ensure protocols are in place & the appropriate Medical staff with the requisite skills are tasked for these jobs), preparation of equipment (as performing RSI in the patient lounge with absolutely no necessary clinical equipment in sight isn't something that is undertaken every day....), with the night flight nurse team physically preparing the RSI meds & infusions required for prolonged transfer for us overnight to enable the transfer teams to depart the ICU at 0715hrs for the long day ahead! The patient



Cockpit view on a cloudy day

transfers undertaken so far have gone well – with the patients safely making their way to new long-term care facilities with no added distress.

We welcome 2 new flight nurses to our team – Anette & Mark, and with much sadness we farewell **Mo Beentjes** this month (who is entering a new phase of life outside of work). Mo is retiring from ICU nursing life, having been one of our founding flight nurses, participating in the inaugural flight training course. Mo: we love you and are going to miss you heaps! For a petite Irish woman, you leave huge shoes to fill. We wish you all the best as you move from caring for those in your community to having more time to spend with family & do a few more things on your wish list. Here's to no more night shifts & 3am flights!

To those flight nurses who are able to attend Aeromed 2026 I'm envious of the tropical warmth that you'll experience in Darwin (as I sit writing this in the snow line in Dunedin), and I hope you enjoy the opportunities to meet & greet like-minded folk from across Australasia & internationally, listen to the fabulous selection of presentations the ASM committee pull together, and think of how & where your service fits within the contributions we all make to the aeromedical space across NZ (& in some services, further afield). For me this is supported by feedback from patients we transport & their families – who are very appreciative of the skills, knowledge, compassion & professionalism flight nurses across NZ bring to their role.

Take care, be safe (& warm), and be proud of what it is that we do!

Toni Johnston, Nurse Practitioner, Southern Critical Care Flight Service



Skifield landing



Wanaka at Sunset

Operation Triforce

What began as a single ICU retrieval quickly evolved into three separate patients requiring urgent transfer to Hamilton, each with different clinical and logistical requirements. Through the combined efforts of multiple teams and agencies, all three transfers were successfully coordinated and completed overnight.



From the LifeFlight side, our King Air crew (James and myself) transported the Waikato ICU retrieval team (Dr Natalie and flight nurse Mel), along with LifeFlight flight nurses Dave and John, to Gisborne. On arrival the operation split into three simultaneous retrievals:

- Dr Natalie and Mel conducted the Waikato ICU stretcher retrieval
- John completed a LifeFlight flight-nurse retrieval
- Dave coordinated and accompanied the transfer of a bariatric patient with the Gisborne ICU intensivist Dr Vipul on the RNZAF NH90 helicopter

The bariatric patient required additional coordination due to aircraft limitations. With support from Dr Muir, Mr Peter – general surgeon Gisborne, Gisborne Flight Team Coordinator, Dr Vipul – Intensivist Gisborne ICU, LifeFlight's Operations Control Centre, Hato Hone-St. John Gisborne and Palmerston North and the RNZAF crew, we were able to arrange the NH90 to transport that patient while the LifeFlight King Air transported the other two. In addition to this, Air Gisborne with pilot/owner Andrew supported the operation by taking one of the support people to Hamilton in order to return Dr Vipul to Gisborne at the completion of this complex mission.

With the help of ambulance services in both Gisborne and Hamilton, all three patients were moved efficiently between the hospital and aircraft. The NH90 departed shortly before the King

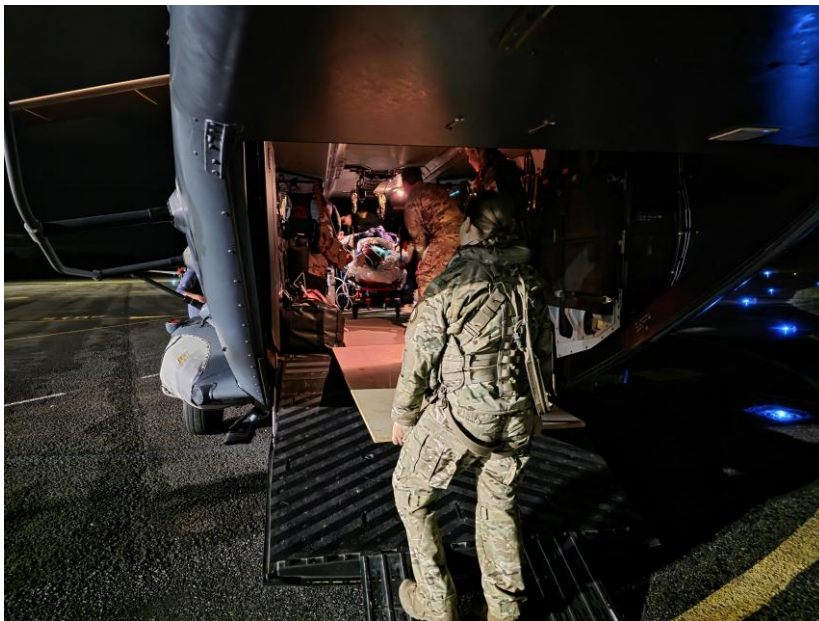
Air, which carried two stretcher patients back to Hamilton. Despite the staggered departures, all three patients arrived in Hamilton within minutes of each other and were transported to Waikato Hospital, where they entered the Emergency Department within roughly ten minutes of one another before being transferred to their respective care areas.





Seeing three complex ICU transfers coordinated overnight across multiple agencies and aircraft types was a great example of what can be achieved through teamwork, professionalism, and flexibility from everyone involved.

Thanks again to the teams in/at Gisborne Flight Team Coordinator, both the duty nurse managers at Waikato and Gisborne hospital, Gisborne Hospital Surgical and ICU teams, Waikato ICU, LifeFlight Operations, RNZAF, Hato Hone St John, Air Gisborne Ltd. and the LifeFlight clinical and flight crews for making it all happen.



Introducing Orion Aeromedical

Orion Aeromedical is a New Zealand-owned aeromedical provider based in Auckland, delivering bedside-to-bedside patient transport throughout New Zealand, the Pacific and internationally.

Our multidisciplinary team includes more than 40 credentialled clinicians and consultants, including flight nurses, critical care flight paramedics, and emergency and intensive care doctors. Working alongside experienced flight crew, they provide the appropriate level of care for each mission. We support a broad spectrum of transfers, from commercial airline medical escorts and stretcher repatriations through to dedicated high-acuity ICU air ambulance retrievals.

Through our vertically integrated partnership with NZJet, Orion has direct access to two medically configurable jet aircraft: a Citation 560 for regional operations and a Gulfstream G100 for longer-range international missions. This integrated model enables rapid mobilisation and provides the flexibility to respond to complex patient transfers across the Asia-Pacific region and around the world.

Since launching in 2025, Orion has established relationships with international assistance companies, insurers, healthcare organisations, hospitals and government agencies throughout the Asia-Pacific region, with referrals and mission requests extending to destinations across the globe.

As Orion continues to grow, we're committed to supporting the development of New Zealand's aeromedical workforce and to working collaboratively with flight nurses and other aeromedical clinicians to continue delivering safe, patient-centred care wherever it is needed.

If you'd like to learn more about Orion Aeromedical, or are interested in joining our collaborative, multidisciplinary team, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact us at info@orionaeromedical.com



Aeromedical Retrieval Course

Helen our course coordinator has been working hard on updating the Aeromedical Retrieval course. Watch this space for details of the revamped and renewed course to be held in February 2027.

Education



EPICCNZ is the first interactive eLearning resource accessible to staff new to critical care working within Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora. EPICCNZ has a range of modules including core knowledge needed to work in the speciality, body system modules to help manage and care for those with critical illness and speciality modules where needs of specific populations are covered.

The IHT module has been developed with the expert input from many IHT teams across the motu. This module is intended to be undertaken alongside practical education and competency development so that every person new to IHT, can access the same high-level induction.

The IHT module is accessible across all three LMS platforms, located within the EPICCNZ homepage. It will take approximately 1-2 hours to complete.

Connect Me - [EPICCNZ Programme](#)

Ko Awatea - [EPICCNZ Programme](#)

HealthLearn - [EPICCNZ Programme NAEC100](#)

For more information please contact:

Tracy Klap tracy.klap@ccdhb.org.nz or Maureen Coombs Maureen.coombs@ccdhb.org.nz

University of Otago, Wellington



WELLINGTON

Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences (Aeromedical Retrieval and Transport)

AVME719 Operational Aspects of Aeromedical Retrieval

- General organisation and structure of retrieval systems
- Aeromedical environment and physiological implications
- Aeromedical aircraft and aviation processes
- Safety and survival

AVME720 Clinical Aspects of Aeromedical Retrieval

- Crew Resource Management, human factors and the impact on safe aeromedical practice and patient care
- Fatigue and systems for identification and management
- Clinical considerations and constraints
- Specialist clinical retrievals
- Integration of theory into independent clinical practice

Graduates of AVME719 and AVME720 will have met the educational requirements set out in the NZ Air Ambulance/Air Search and Rescue Standard, the NZ Standard for Ambulance and Paramedical Services (NZS8156:2008), the educational requirements of the NZFNA and the educational standards for the Aeromedical Society of Australasia (ASA).

Graduates have the opportunity to continue towards a Post Graduate Diploma or Masters in Health Science endorsed in Aeromedical Retrieval and Transport (AeroRT).

For further details please contact: oamu@otago.ac.nz | or check out the website: otago.ac.nz/aviation_medicine



See explanation over page

The course is PGHealSc (AeroRT) for nurses and paramedics.

Paper titles for the two papers are;

AVME 719 'Operational Aspects of Aeromedical Retrieval'

and AVME720 'Clinical Aspects of Aeromedical Retrieval.'

If a person doing an internet search were to type in:

['https://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/qualifications/postgraduate-certificate-in-health-sciences](https://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/qualifications/postgraduate-certificate-in-health-sciences)

they would discover the old names for 719 and 720. Please ignore the old names. Efforts by minions such as Russell (course director/lecturer) and myself (his lackey) to get the university to update the paper names on the university website have so far met with zero success.

Best to search: [otago.ac.nz/aviation_medicine](https://www.otago.ac.nz/aviation_medicine) and click on the link for 'Papers Schedule 2025-2027.' This looks to be the only place where the correct paper names are mentioned. Hope this clarifies any confusion.

AVME719 will be run in semester 2 (commences mid-July) and AVME720 is expected to be offered in 2027 likely in semester 1.

Happy to discuss the course if anyone has queries: p.fortes@otago.ac.nz

Kind Regards

Peter Fortes

(PS: my official uni title is senior lecturer but lackey is good)

2026 AEROMED CONFERENCE

CRITICAL CARE IN THE AIR: REMOTE, REAL & RELENTLESS

28-30 OCTOBER 2026
DARWIN CONVENTION CENTRE, NT

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER NOW
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National Trauma Symposium 2026

Towards Excellence

Thursday 5 November 2026

Intercontinental Hotel, 2 Grey Street, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

<https://www.traumasymposium.nz/>

Nau mai haere mai ki tenei Hui a Tau ki te Hononga Whētuki ā-Motu

On behalf of the Organising Committee, we would like to invite you to attend the National Trauma Symposium 2026 to be held on Thursday 5th November 2026 at the Intercontinental Hotel, Wellington, New Zealand.

The programme consists of scientific presentations, facilitated debate on hot topics & wānanga spaces for all trauma practitioners to share lessons learnt.

Come to Wellington and share your story from roadside to rehab and beyond. All practitioners involved in Trauma Care are welcome and all those who are curious about a career in trauma are welcome also.

We look forward to welcoming you to this exciting event.

National Trauma Symposium Organising Committee
Trauma National Clinical Network

For more information and to register visit the conference website www.traumasymposium.nz.

*Professional Conference Organiser (PCO):
Donna Clapham, Workz4U Conference Management
PO Box 90641, Victoria St West, Auckland 1142, New Zealand
phone: +64 21 325 133, conferences@w4u.co.nz, www.w4u.co.nz*

Position Descriptions for Committee vacancies

The committee has 3 vacancies coming up this year, we have attached the position descriptions for these as they are quite involved roles. If you are interested in joining the committee, or know someone who would be ideal for these roles, then please get your nominations in here:

[Download the nomination form](#)

COASTN Committee Vice Chair

Position Summary

The Committee Vice Chair is a voluntary, non-remunerated position that supports the Chair in providing leadership and governance for COASTN. The Vice Chair works collaboratively with Committee members to support the effective operation of the Committee and contributes to achieving the organisation's goals and strategic direction.

Key Responsibilities

- Support and assist the Chair in their duties and responsibilities.
- Act on behalf of the Chair when required.
- Contribute to Committee discussions, planning, and decision-making.
- Assist with Committee projects, initiatives, and events as required.
- Promote a positive, collaborative, and professional Committee culture.
- Undertake additional duties as delegated by the Chair.

Time Commitment

- Attendance at two face-to-face Committee meetings.
- Attendance at approximately four to five after-hours Zoom Committee meetings annually.
- Attendance at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

COASTN Committee Secretary

Position Summary

The Committee Secretary is a voluntary, non-remunerated position providing administrative and governance support to the COASTN Committee. The Secretary reports to the Committee Chair and plays a key role in ensuring the Committee's effective operation through communication, documentation, and record-keeping.

Key Responsibilities

- Coordinate and manage correspondence on behalf of the Committee, under the direction of the Chair.
- Organise administrative requirements for two annual face-to-face Committee meetings held in Wellington, including meeting notices and agendas
- Attend and participate in approximately four to five after-hours Committee Zoom meetings each year, preparing agendas, recording minutes
- Prepare, distribute, and maintain accurate minutes and records of Committee meetings.
- Document the yearly Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- Draft and maintain the Committee's Annual Plan in consultation with the Chair and other Committee members.
- Assist with the development, formatting, review, and maintenance of national policies, guidelines, position statements, and other national Committee documents.
- Maintain Committee records and ensure documentation is organised, current, and accessible.
- Support the Chair with governance and administrative tasks as required.
- Document preparation and committee support.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office
- The ability to work independently while maintaining regular communication with the Chair.
- A commitment to professionalism, confidentiality, and collaborative teamwork.

Time Commitment

- Attendance at two face-to-face Committee meetings in Wellington each year.
- Attendance at approximately four to five after-hours Zoom Committee meetings annually.
- Attendance at the Annual General Meeting.

COASTN Communications and Website Coordinator

Position Summary

The Communications and Website Coordinator is a voluntary, non-remunerated position responsible for supporting member engagement and communication through COASTN's social media platforms and website. The role works closely with the Committee, members, and website designer to ensure information is current, relevant, and accessible.

Key Responsibilities

- Manage and monitor COASTN social media platforms.
- Share and promote Committee news, events, celebrations, achievements, educational opportunities, and member engagement activities.
- Encourage positive interaction and engagement with COASTN members through social media.
- Ensure social media content aligns with COASTN values and professional standards.
- Liaise with the website designer regarding website updates, improvements, and maintenance requirements.
- Coordinate website content updates to ensure information is accurate, current, and relevant.
- Review website content regularly and recommend improvements where appropriate.
- Support the promotion of COASTN activities, events, and communications across digital platforms.

Time Commitment

- Additional time as required for social media management, website content updates, and liaison with the website designer. This commitment varies throughout the year depending on Committee activities, events, and communication needs.
- Attendance at two face-to-face Committee meetings.
- Attendance at approximately four to five after-hours Zoom Committee meetings annually.
- Attendance at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).



Pictured from Left: Avryl Way, Jo Knight, Patrice Rosengrave, Annie Bradley-Ingle, Andy Gibbs, Jackie Hardy, Tania Parr, Kylie Stevens, Rose Bond

Andrea Gibbs	Chairperson	Andrea.gibbs@ccdhb.org.nz
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Rose Bond	Committee Member	Rose.gilbert@southerndhb.govt.nz
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