

**Issue Eight  
July 2009**

**New Zealand Wound Care Society Newsletter**  
For more information & membership forms visit: [www.nzwcs.org.nz](http://www.nzwcs.org.nz)

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#### What is the New Zealand Wound Care Society?

The NZWCS is a voluntary organisation made up of health care professionals from a variety of disciplines who share a common interest in wound management. As an organisation it gives its members an opportunity to share experience, expertise and knowledge providing a forum to network with other members throughout the country.

Currently there are fourteen branches New Zealand-wide. Each has an area coordinator and a national committee member. The area coordinator is responsible for coordinating meetings and seminars for the local branch members, while the national committee member represents each branch at a national level. In some areas these duties are undertaken by the same volunteer.

#### Inside this issue:

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## A warm welcome is extended to new and existing members.

Molnlycke have generously sponsored this newsletter to be printed in colour and to be sent out to all members, thank you Molnlycke.

This issue will focus on highlights from our national conference held in Napier 14-16<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

## President's Report

Welcome to winter! It has certainly arrived here in Wellington with a decidedly icy Queen's Birthday weekend!

Well, the most important and exciting news is the success of our national conference in Napier. With over 320 delegates attending over the three days, the informative and entertaining speakers and, of course, the glamorous conference dinner!

I would like to thank the Conference Committee for their hard work to make the conference a success, Pip Rutherford, Marilyn Harkness, Jude Clarke, Jenny Phillips and Emil Schmidt. In particular I want to acknowledge the local committee members who did the majority of the work, Pip, Marilyn and Jude I also need to thank Ali and Adrienne from akB Conference Management, and Jeannette our Administrator who all helped make sure things ran smoothly. We had great support from industry for the conference with three gold sponsors and four associate sponsors, as well as 15 trade stands.

Overall evaluations from the conference demonstrate that the vast majority of delegates found the content and speakers of high quality and relevance, as well as the posters and workshops, and like me they really enjoyed the conference dinner – I think they all just relished the chance to dress-up! In addition to the praise there were also some very helpful comments and suggestions for our next conference, the location of which we need to discuss at our Committee meeting.

The other exciting news is the launch of our new look website and logo. I hope everyone has had a chance to look around the website. I have been working on adding new content, including the conference presentations and photographs, as well as a new publications page where I hope we can build an online library of articles, guidelines, protocols, and any other useful publications from Society members.

I have also been invited to attend a committee meeting of the Australian Wound Management Association in October to re-establish and begin to build our relationship with the AWMA. I am also working with the European Wound Management Association to have the NZWCS become an International Partner Organisation of the EWMA.

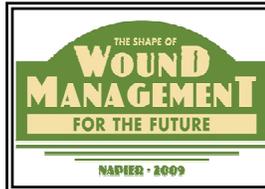
All the best

Wayne Naylor  
President, NZWCS

## NZWCS National Committee & Area Coordinators

**Wayne Naylor** President  
**Emil Schmidt** Treasurer &  
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**Jeannette Henderson**  
Administrator

**Liz Milner** Committee Member  
& Area Coordinator Auckland  
**Rowena McGarth** Committee  
Member Waikato  
**Angela Carter & Anna  
Campbell** Area Coordinator's  
Waikato  
**Diane Hishon** Area  
Coordinator Rotorua/Taupo/BOP  
**Christine Cumming** Area  
Coordinator Manawatu-  
Wanganui & **Desley Johnson**  
Committee Member  
**Chris Guys** Area Coordinator  
New Plymouth / Taranaki  
**Paula McKinnel** Committee  
Member & **Carol Tweed** Area  
Coordinator Wellington  
**Pip Rutherford & Marilyn  
Harkness** Area Coordinator's  
**Sue Rossiter** Area  
Coordinator Nelson  
**Cushla Arnot** Committee  
Member & Area Coordinator  
Nelson / Motueka  
**Dawn Sutton** Area  
Coordinator Canterbury &  
**Val Sandston** Committee  
Member Canterbury  
**Rebecca Aburn** Committee  
Member & Area Coordinator  
Dunedin  
**Mandy Pagan** Committee  
Member & Area Coordinator  
Southland  
**Chris Black** Area Coordinator  
West Coast



## Conference Report by Pip Rutherford Wound Care Practitioner NZWCS Committee Member & Area Co- ordinator Hawke's Bay

The NZWCS biennial conference was held in Napier in May 2009 with an Art Deco theme linking the shapes of the Napier City Architecture with the shape of wound management for the future.

There were over 320 delegates from nursing, podiatry, medical, clinical management, pharmacy, tertiary education and wound related industry backgrounds.

### Programme

Our challenge was to design a conference programme that provided relevant information and knowledge to clinicians with a wide range of expertise. A review of the registrations indicated that delegates were drawn from across New Zealand and Australia who work in a diverse range of practice settings including hospitals, residential care, clinics, hospice, emergency departments/centres community care, general practice, rural centres, service provision agencies, prisons and patient's homes.

Speakers from the Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand presented on a wide range of topics.

Jan Rice gave papers on complex wound management, wound assessment, the physiology of healing and chronic wounds. Jan had some great strategies for managing challenging wounds such as pilonidal sinus.

Mr Richard Wong She gave papers on burns assessment and management, and the referral criteria based on the new ACC Burns Guidelines. Richard also spoke on plastic surgical options, skin replacement products in wound management and topical negative pressure therapy.

Erik De Laat gave an overview of the annual national pressure ulcer prevalence studies done in hospitals and residential care in the Netherlands and provided New Zealand clinicians with some ideas for a similar study here. The NZWCS has given a grant of \$5,000 to Jan Weststrate of Victoria University towards a pilot for the New Zealand study later in 2009.

Trauma injuries, deep vascular injuries and acute wounds were the topic of Dr Bob Butler who also talked on animal and human bites and wounds likely to present in emergency departments.

The diabetic foot and related problems associated with wounds, deformities in foot architecture and pressure loading were part of the session by Angela Bayley which also included radiological assessment. This session also gave insight into podiatry practice and interdisciplinary care models.

Dr Richard Meech gave a timely presentation on wound infections, assessment and treatment options, and the limited role of wound swabs in diagnosis and treatment.

Over 200 delegates completed evaluation forms and the overall programme was given an average or above average by all those who provided feedback. In fact 69% of people gave the programme a top ranking of 5. We also received some valuable ideas for future conferences on what topics to include in the future such as pain, and management of palliative wounds.

### Workshops

It was recognised that many delegates would have diverse interests in wound management and a mix of skills. Four concurrent workshops were organised to allow delegates to participate in practical "hands-on" sessions provided by expert clinicians from New Zealand and Australia. This was designed to offer a wide range of topics based on four work streams. Our challenge was to provide relevant topics for the wide range of clinical settings from a major hospital

## Support our Australian Colleagues

The Elephant In The Room is a nationwide awareness campaign on behalf of The Australian Wound Management Association (AWMA) that seeks to draw attention to the serious problem of chronic wounds; go online and sign their petition (click on the pink tag attached to the elephant)

[www.elephantintheroom.com.au](http://www.elephantintheroom.com.au)



campus to small rural practices. One of the evaluations described how the workshops “exposed her to new topics and ideas” while many people enjoyed the practical experience. Workshop evaluations were generally very positive with the vast majority of evaluations ranking either a top score of “5” or an “above average” score of “4”.

- Stream one focused on wound assessment and measurement, dressings, nutrition and pressure mapping. (With 73% delegates ranking this stream with a 4 or 5 – the two highest scores).
- Stream two was more technically orientated with clinical photography, Doppler assessment, negative pressure wound therapy and using the internet to research the literature. (Evaluations showed 88% ranked either a 4 or 5).
- Stream three was aimed at complex wound aetiology, debridement and an update on honey research and wound care. (98% ranked either a 4 or 5 score)
- Stream four was centres on Diabetic Foot Assessment, and included gait analysis, pressure off-loading, orthotics, peripheral neuropathy, and vascular assessment. (79% ranked either a 4 or 5 score)

We were grateful to the workshop presenters who willingly gave up their time to share their experience.

**Abstracts**

Abstracts were received with 5 oral presentations and 12 poster presentations, which were displayed in the Internet Café. Individual judges used a specific score sheet, but still had a difficult time finding winners as standards were high and topics all relevant. The poster prize of a digital camera was sponsored by Intermed Medical KCI. The NZWCS sponsored the oral abstract prize of free registration at the next conference for the best oral abstract. Best oral abstract was won by Ann Stewart, Sydney “Effects of a Pilonidal Sinus Wound on the Individuals’ Activities of Living” and best poster was won by Murray Hamilton Hutt Valley DHB “Developing A Positive Outlook To An Age Old Problem”.

**Meetings and Symposia**

Symposia were also held in conjunction with the conference and were well attended. These forums were provided to launch new products related to wound care in New Zealand. Meetings were also held in conjunction with the conference. The NZWCS meeting updated members on our current financial situation, and the new logo was launched. The NZNO District Nurses also held their AGM

**Exhibitions**

We were delighted with the great support and sponsorship from the trade exhibitors, and their willingness to share resources, samples, guidelines, product information, equipment displays and clinical expertise. The exhibition area was a popular destination during meal breaks, where representatives were able to contribute to the positive experience for delegates.

**Social Activities**

The dinner attended by over 260 delegates, was a great success and every-one got into the groove in Art Deco attire. A local band “Naked Gun” had the dance floor packed within the first song! A cocktail hour on the first day in the Exhibition Area was a great starting point for socialising, networking and enjoying local wines and food.

		
<p>Jenny Phillips – NZWCS Past President was acknowledged and thanked for her years of dedication and work for the NZWCS</p>	<p>Wayne Naylor flanked by doting supporters and Art Deco enthusiasts</p>	<p>The Waikato swim team bare it all</p>

**Next Issue November 2009 (article deadline 1<sup>st</sup> October)**  
***This is YOUR newsletter so get involved and contact Mandy or Rebecca with any questions, ideas, tips, case studies or websites of interest***