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UPFRONT

Time to recharge after busy year: After a successful conference, it's onwards and upwards

Mary Morrissey

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3 minutes to Read



PMAANZ chair Mary Morrissey in festive mood [Image: Supplied]

New PMAANZ chair **Mary Morrissey** backgrounds her experience in practice management, outlines her initial advocacy work and looks forward to working with other newly elected executive members

Tēnā koutou katoa

Ko Taranaki te māunga

Ko Waingongoro te awa

No Airani oku tipuna

No Ngamotu ahau

Ko Morrissey tōku whānau

Ko Mary tōku ingoa

*Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou
katoa*

We had our annual Practice Managers and Administrators Association of New Zealand conference in Ōtautahi Christchurch in September, and I would like to say a big thank you to the organising committee and executive members for a very inspirational conference. We had a big couple of days with two of our long-standing executive members standing down, Heidi Bubendorfer and Michelle Te Kira. Their knowledge and passion for PMAANZ will be missed.

We had three new members elected, Wendy Harris, Carol Neki and Roshan Fernando and I'm looking forward to working with them over the next year. I was appointed to the role of chair as Michelle's successor. I am very aware I have some big shoes to fill and admire Michelle for everything she has done for PMAANZ over the last five years. She has made our voice heard and her hard work has led to invitations to many of the meetings and groups we are involved with.

My working life in health started in Riccarton, Ōtautahi, on return from my OE. I was working in the reception for an extended Accident and Medical Clinic, a very busy role with dental and radiology on site. I returned to my home province of Taranaki in 2000 where I started working for four GPs who worked in their own individual practices. They joined together to become one practice and grew to include 15 GPs over three sites with 50-plus staff.

Just before COVID-19 arrived I was fortunate to move to a solo-GP practice and spent lockdown chatting to about 30 per cent of our patients. The GP and nurse called the other 70 per cent – a very different perspective in a single-GP practice.

My current role is with six GPs over two sites, in the centre of New Plymouth. Outside of work I have two boys and volunteer for the Taranaki Animal Protection Trust, fostering cats and kittens.

My first two months as chair have been eventful. I have attended and advocated on behalf of our members at the following:

General Practice Leaders Forum meetings

ACC Rehabilitation Improvement Provider Advisory Group

Collaborative Aotearoa Hui together with some joint work on a practice management manual

General Practice Sector Group

PSAAP Representation Group

General Practice NZ

GPNZ/Sapere F2F Workshop – Sustainability of General Practice

meeting with NZ Medical Insurance.

In October, I represented PMAANZ at AAPM23 – the Australian Association of Practice Management conference, held in Adelaide. While I didn't see much of Adelaide, I would love to go back and explore the beautiful architecture and rich history. AAPM holds its conference from Wednesday to Friday due to its larger membership. This year's official opening speaker was Australian MP Mark Butler, minister for health and aged care. Mr Butler spoke about the same problems in Australia as we are experiencing here: lack of doctors and funding, and increasing complexity of care.

We had our first meeting of the PMAANZ executive earlier this month; it was great to sit down with our new team and discuss our plans for the following year. I'm excited about our team and looking forward to working with them. It's understandable we are uncertain about the future of general practice, given the new Government is still getting fully up and running. However, it was great to hear there has been an increase in the number of GPEP training places for 2024, and I hope there will be more good news coming our way.

I hope everyone gets some time away from work over the summer, it's important we look after our own wellbeing and take time to recharge our batteries after the stressful few years we have all experienced.

Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year to you all.

Ngā mihi o te wa kirihimete me te tau hou.

Mary Morrissey is chair of Practice Managers and Administrators Association of New Zealand

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