

NZIMLS Council Newsletter

August 2026

News from the Council

The August 2026 Council meeting was held in Wellington prior to the ASM. All Council members stayed on for the ASM and attended the AGM on Thursday 20 August. The Minutes of the 80th AGM will be circulated in the November Journal.

After the resignation of Leah Pringle from the role of Region 5 Representative, Council welcomed Tessy George from Pacific Edge in Dunedin as the new regional representative. Tessy's position was then ratified at the AGM. We hope all of you in Region 5 will also welcome Tessy. Her contact details are available on our website.

Thank you to lab managers

Thank you to all lab managers for using the new template to report back to your regional representatives. Your support in adopting a consistent approach is greatly appreciated and will help ensure regional feedback is clear, useful, and easy to share.

This initiative is important because it gives Council a better overview of what is happening across laboratories, helping to identify common themes, emerging issues, and areas where support may be needed. The template is intended to provide meaningful insight while respecting privacy and contractual obligations, and without requiring the disclosure of confidential or identifying information.

Council continues to advocate on behalf of the membership, and is currently preparing a Briefing for the Incoming Ministers (BIM) to be submitted after the November nationwide election. The BIM will be available for members to view on our website.

The 80th Anniversary celebrations were held in style during the 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting. President, Tony Barnett, along with Wing Lam Wong, General Manager, Roche Diagnostics (Platinum Sponsor of the ASM) cut the anniversary cake at the Gala Dinner and there was plenty of cake to go round!



The MSC audit is now well underway! Practitioners have reported some difficulties in responding to Audit, and the NZMLS Council and CPD Coordinator discussed these issues with the MSC during their meeting at the ASM. The MSC are working on sorting out the technical issues and doing their best to keep the audit on track.

Jillian Broadbent, our CPD Coordinator is currently on leave for five weeks and not contactable. In the meantime, Cathy Hobson in the Executive Office is taking care of any CPD queries. You may email Cathy directly with any questions on admin@nzimls.org.nz.

Also during Jillian's absence, the Journal Editor, Lisa Cambridge is marking Journal Questionnaires.

We greatly appreciate Cathy and Lisa taking on these roles ensuring everything continues to run like clockwork with no disruption to members.

Online Classroom

We have received requests to consider increasing the three-attempt limit for online classroom questionnaires. After discussion, the NZIMLS Council has agreed to retain the current three-attempt limit, noting that practitioners have several other ways to collect CPD points.

QMLT Examinations



We hope that 2026 candidates are continuing with their training and study towards their 2026 QMLT examination. By now you should have downloaded your subject [Curriculum](#), and we encourage you to commence working on the [Practical Assessment](#) for your subject alongside your study.

There are very good [Resources](#) and [FAQs](#) available on our website, however should you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Cathy Hobson at admin@nzimls.org.nz.

QMLT Fees 2027

NZIMLS Council discussed the current QMLT fees and agreed that the fees no longer cover the cost of administering the examinations. Preparing QMLT examinations involves (but is not limited to):

- Examiner/moderator training day
- Experienced trainer for training day
- Writing examinations
- Office administration of papers
- Printing of papers
- Couriers
- Payment to examiners & moderators

Therefore it was unanimously decided to increase the QMLT fee to \$450.00 (incl. GST) commencing in 2027. Fees will continue to be reviewed at the August Council meeting each year thereafter.

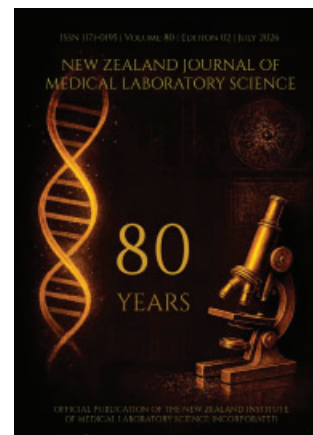
Journal

Did you present at the Annual Scientific Meeting?

Have you considered submitting your talk to the Journal?

We would welcome any presentations. Please email your interest in the first instance to sharon@nzimls.org.nz.

We have recently received a few requests for PDF copies of the Journal. NZIMLS previously decided that both the online and hard-copy versions would be available to readers only. This helps discourage the use of search, copy and paste functions when completing Journal questionnaires. Practitioners will gain more by reading the articles in full. If you do not currently receive a hard-copy of the Journal but would like to do so, please email Cathy: admin@nzimls.org.nz.



2026 NZIMLS CALENDAR			<i>Dates may be subject to change</i>
Date		Event	
September	26	North Island Seminar, Hamilton	
October	03	QMLT Examinations	
	10	Anatomical Pathology SIG, Auckland	
November	07	Mortuary SIG, Christchurch	
	07	Pre-Analytical SIG, Auckland	

◆ Registration for the Anatomical Pathology, Mortuary and Pre-Analytical SIGS and the North Island Seminar is now open on our website.

◆ For any information about upcoming events, please email admin@nzimls.org.nz

Retiring members

NZIMLS would like to acknowledge the commitment to the profession of members who have recently retired.

Ross Hewett (Life Member 40+ years)

Sabrina Holland (Member 20+ years)

Rachael Jenkins (Member 40+ years)



We wish these members all the very best for their retirement. If you know of anyone who has recently retired, or if you are due to retire, please let us know!

email admin@nzimls.org.nz

Lab initiatives

Whangārei Microbiology Lab team and Pathologists have recently designed and produced a customised team hoodie to help foster team identity, engagement, and morale within the laboratory.

The design reflects the microbiology team spirit and provides a practical, comfortable option for staff during cooler shifts.



Honorary Membership

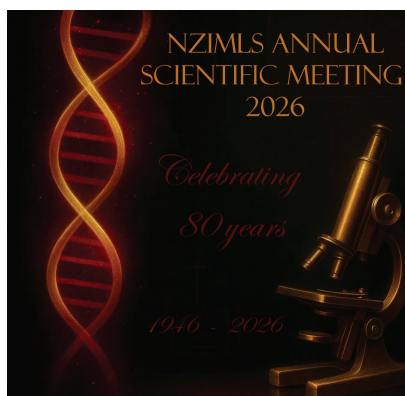


The NZIMLS Council is pleased to announce that George Bongiovanni has been awarded Honorary Membership of the NZIMLS. The award was presented to George at the Gala Dinner during the 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting, in the presence of his wife Jeanette and his peers. George has been a dedicated supporter of the NZIMLS and the profession for more than 40 years, and his significant contributions to medical laboratory science and the NZIMLS make him a deserving recipient of this honour.

NZIMLS President, Tony Barnett presented George with his Honorary Membership Certificate.

It was also a great pleasure to see retired members who have given so much to the NZIMLS in attendance at the ASM. Pictured below: Ross Hewett, ex President and Life Member and Rob Siebers, Editor Emeritus, Fellow and Life Member.





80 Years of Discovery: Honouring Our Past, Advancing Our Future:

*Ngātau 80 o te kītenga: te whakanui i tō tātou
hōtorī me te whakawhanake i tō tātou anamata*

Takina Events Centre, Wellington, 19-21 August 2026

A huge thank you to the ASM26 organising committee for their hard work in developing a fantastic scientific programme. This was no easy task, but it came together brilliantly, offering something for everyone.

Congratulations to Annemarie van der Slot Verhoven, Scientific Programme Convenor, along with Aimee Kinzett, Ilise Crockett, Irina Khokryakova, Kelly Craig, Kirsten Birrell, and Russell Cole.

Another huge thank you to our PCO, Daniela Olphert, and our CEO, Sharon Tozer, for bringing everything together and ensuring the Conference ran smoothly.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the South Pacific Congress in Brisbane in September 2027.

Photo's from the 2026 ASM and 80th Anniversary celebrations may be viewed at <https://i.smoke.co.nz/-nzimls-asm-2026/gallery>



Front row: Kirsten Birrell, Russel Cole, Annemarie van der Slot Verhoven

Back row: (L to R) Kelly Craig, Cathy Hobson (NZIMLS), Fran Rae (NZIMLS), Daniela Olphert, Sharon Tozer, Aimee Kinzett, Jillian Broadbent (NZIMLS)

Leaving School Magazine

NZIMLS recently took out an advertisement in the Leaving School Magazine (Issue 36) which included an interview with new graduate Alena Hojdelewicz.

The Leaving School Magazine is distributed quarterly to all New Zealand Secondary schools.

You can view the magazine at <https://oliverlee.co.nz/leavingschool-issue36/>



SOUTH PACIFIC
CONGRESS

The Australian Institute of
Medical and Clinical
Scientists and the New
Zealand Institute of Medical
Laboratory Science invite
you to join us for the **2027
South Pacific Congress** in
Brisbane, Australia



**SAVE
THE
DATE**



**18-20 AUGUST
2027**



BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

Many Disciplines

Two Associations

One Conference



CONNECT



DISCOVER



INSPIRE



See you there!

