

CHAIR'S REPORT

For Annual General Meeting 04 August 2026 | Reporting period: July 2025 – July 2026

This year has focused on bringing several strands of work together and strengthening what the Trust can offer people and whānau. As a small organisation run largely through voluntary effort, we have continued to work towards our purpose: improving outcomes for whānau affected by familial breast and ovarian cancer through education, advocacy, peer support and professional connection.

Growing together

A major development was the merger of NZFBOC and Gift of Knowledge. Announced during Hereditary Cancer Awareness Week in September 2025, the two organisations came together, combining NZFBOC's clinical, educational and advocacy work with Gift of Knowledge's established peer-support community. The merger required detailed work on governance, assets, branding, digital platforms and communication, with the remaining Gift of Knowledge funds transferred to the Trust. The renewed [website](#) now brings information, personal and whānau stories, professional resources and peer support together in one place.

Listening, education and advocacy

Our Resources and Assistance for Young People Impacted by Familial Breast and Ovarian Cancer (RAY) project grew from listening to young New Zealanders. Their survey responses showed how early many encounter familial cancer, yet how difficult it can be to find relevant information and informed guidance. These findings shaped [four New Zealand-based videos](#), both launched with the merger, in which two families speak honestly about inherited risk, loss, testing and preventive decisions. Further Cancer Society support is enabling Phase 2 videos on breast and ovarian surgery, genetic counselling and the science of inherited cancer risk. Filming with a geneticist, scientist and surgeon is being planned for September 2026. Our Dunedin City Council grant application was unsuccessful, illustrating the continuing challenge of funding work with national reach.

NZFBOC has also continued to support AGenDA - Against Genomic Discrimination Aotearoa by offering a platform for publications. Jody Bews-Hair contributed her lived experience to advocacy discussions at Parliament and national media coverage. Alongside this, the NZFBOC Special Interest Group continues to connect clinicians, genetic professionals, researchers and consumer representatives around more consistent and equitable care.

Changing Landscapes 2026

A major focus has been planning the next national conference. [Familial Breast & Ovarian Cancer: Changing Landscapes](#) will be held on 6–7 November 2026 in Ōtautahi Christchurch, with virtual access and a linked [Community Day](#) also being held in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. By the end of June, the programme was complete, all speakers had confirmed and the sponsorship prospectus had been prepared; registration is now open. The programme connects the pathway from primary care and genetic assessment to specialist risk management, psychological support, surgery and science. Consumer questions have helped shape the Community Day, while detailed budget scenarios, sponsorship and practical arrangements remain active areas of work supported by Conference Innovators.

Stewardship and the year ahead

The less visible work has continued too: regular meetings, financial reporting, the Charities Services return, record-keeping and preparation for re-registration under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

Our priorities are now to deliver Changing Landscapes well, progress the next video phase, strengthen peer support and build a more sustainable funding base. The Trust is also supporting further research into current provision of risk-reducing care. We will keep listening to people living with inherited cancer risk, whānau, Māori and Pacific communities, and professionals working across the pathway.

Acknowledgements

The Trust's work during the year reflects the contributions of trustees Nicola Coom, Helen Harris, Jody Bews-Hair and Steph McKenzie; adviser Mike Legge; and those involved in Gift of Knowledge, the Special Interest Group, conference planning, filmmaking and professional advice. We welcome Kelly Reichardt in her role as Trust Secretary. I also wish to acknowledge the individuals and families whose experiences, generosity and openness continue to shape our direction, strengthen our resources, and remind us why this work matters.

Dr. Simone Petrich

Chair, New Zealand Familial Breast and Ovarian Cancer Trust | 9 August 2026