

17 December 2025

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## *Thank you*

*For your continued support and commitment this year in helping MelNet achieve its goals.*

*We will be taking a break from 22 December to 4 January.*

*Wishing you and your loved ones a safe and relaxing holiday season.*

## **A snapshot of MelNet's year | Celebrating our achievements**

- This year our organisation embarked on an exciting new chapter, passing a resolution to rebrand to Skin Cancer New Zealand. A new Executive was elected and has begun progressing the rebranding work as part of their broader leadership role.
- A key milestone this year was the launch of the [Skin Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Strategy 2024 – 2028](#). The Strategy provides a roadmap for reducing the incidence and impact of skin cancer in New Zealand through improved prevention and early detection. Much of our advocacy this year focused on securing greater investment and Government leadership in these areas.
- We are grateful to members of the Melanoma Working Group who are currently reviewing the [New Zealand Melanoma Clinical Guidelines](#) (previously called the Quality Statements to Guide Melanoma Diagnosis and Treatment in New Zealand). This document defines best practice melanoma management and is designed to support clinical decision making. The updated version will be released next year.
- In collaboration with Cancer Nurse Coordinators, we held another successful *Skin Cancer Study Day* for over 90 nurses in the Auckland region.
- A meeting of the [Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group](#) was held in October in conjunction with the New Zealand Society of Oncology (NZSO) conference. Dr Ashani Weeraratna, a world-renowned expert on melanoma metastasis, Wnt signaling and aging, presented on "*Age against the Machine: understanding Melanoma in the context of the aging human body*".
- In collaboration with the Goodfellow Unit, we once again hosted a beginners' dermoscopy workshop as part of the Goodfellow Symposium. Our sincere thanks to Dr Chris Boberg and Dr Andrew MacGill for presenting this session.
- In June, new melanoma treatments became publicly funded for stage IIIB to stage IV melanoma – a major milestone that significantly improves access to life-saving therapies and brings new hope for better outcomes. Oncology representatives on the MelNet Executive Committee played a key role in engaging with Pharmac to ensure these treatments reflect the latest clinical advancements and international best practice. To support the implementation of these therapies, we hosted an online

session on perioperative melanoma therapies, aimed at creating consistency in approach and leveraging insights from Australia.

- The [Nurses in Skin Cancer Special Interest Group](#) continues to grow, with over 60 highly engaged members. This year, the group has continued to support and facilitate ongoing professional development, and progressed work on a professional pathway for skin cancer nurses.
- We have continued to provide up-to-date information, research and resources to all our members.

Thank you to the various organisations and individuals who have supported our work this year.

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## Looking ahead to 2026 | Exciting times for Skin Cancer New Zealand!

2026 is shaping up to be a landmark year, packed with events and initiatives you won't want to miss.

- **Rebrand launch**  
We'll unveil our refreshed visual identity, website, and membership database, offering a fresh look and a more user-friendly online experience.
- **Foundation Club launch**  
We will introduce the Skin Cancer New Zealand Foundation Club, an exclusive club for those who want to support our work. Members will enjoy benefits while helping us advance our mission – details coming soon.
- **New sub-committees**  
Several new sub-committees will be established to drive key areas of our work. Expressions of interest will open soon – get ready to help shape the future.
- **[New Zealand Skin Cancer Summit, 18–20 June](#)**  
Join us in Wellington for our first in-person Summit under our new name! Covering all types of skin cancer, the Summit's theme is "*Equity in Action: Bridging Gaps for Skin Cancer.*" Optional pre-Summit workshops on 18 June add even more learning opportunities. Registration opens in February – mark your diaries.
- **Pre-Goodfellow Symposium Workshop, 20 March**  
Sharpen your dermoscopy skills at our beginner [Skin Lesion and Dermatoscopy course](#), presented by Honorary Professor Amanda Oakley.
- **Online Education Programme**  
Launching in 2026: a free, CME-accredited online education programme for health and allied health professionals that covers the foundations of skin cancer prevention, early detection, and dermoscopy.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and our partners to make 2026 another year of meaningful progress to prevent skin cancers, improve outcomes and save lives.

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## Help shape our priorities for 2026 | Please complete a two-minute survey

With a new Executive in place, we want to ensure Skin Cancer New Zealand is focused on what matters most to our members.

As we begin to plan our advocacy work for the year ahead — including engagement with parliamentarians in the lead-up to the 2026 election — we'd really value your input.

### Please take two minutes to answer one important question:

What are the three most important priorities you think Skin Cancer New Zealand should focus on over the next 12 months?

[Complete the survey](#)

## Upcoming opportunities and events

January, February	March
<p><b>36<sup>th</sup> Annual Melanoma and Cutaneous Oncology Symposium 2026</b> 24 – 25 January 2026 San Diego, California, USA <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>Certificate of Dermoscopy – Online</b> (Skin Cancer College Australasia) Starts on 6 February 2026 Online <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>Advanced Clinical Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine &amp; Surgery</b> (Skin Cancer College Australasia) Starts on 6 February 2026 Online <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>Advanced Clinical Certificate of Dermoscopy</b> (Skin Cancer College Australasia) Starts on 6 February 2026 Online <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>IO360° 2026</b> 10 – 12 February 2026 Boston, MA, USA <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine</b> (Skin Cancer College Australasia) Starts on 20 February 2026 Online and practical workshop in Sydney, Australia <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>22<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Symposium on Melanoma and Other Cutaneous Malignancies</b> 21 February 2026 Beverly Hills, California, USA <a href="#">Find out more</a></p>	<p><b>Lymph Info Trust 2026 International Conference on Lymphatic Disorders</b> 5 – 7 March 2026 Napier <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>RCPA Pathology Update 2026</b> 6 – 8 March 2026 Sydney, Australia <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>38<sup>th</sup> TROG Cancer Research Annual Scientific Meeting</b> 17 – 20 March 2026 Melbourne, Australia <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>MelNet Skin Lesion and Dermatoscopy Course (Pre-Goodfellow Symposium Workshop)</b> 20 March 2026 Auckland <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>Goodfellow Symposium</b> 21 – 22 March 2026 Auckland <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>NZ Association of General Surgeons (NZAGS) Annual Scientific Meeting 2026</b> 21 – 22 March 2026 Dunedin <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>WONCA Asia Pacific 2026</b> 25 – 27 March 2026 Iloilo City, Philippines <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>Certificate of Dermoscopy – Online</b> (Skin Cancer College Australasia) Starts on 27 March 2026 Online <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine</b> (Skin Cancer College Australasia) Starts on 27 March 2026 Online and practical workshop in Brisbane, Australia <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>NECTA Drug Development Meeting 2026</b> 27 March 2026 Sydney, Australia <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>AAD Annual Meeting</b> 27 – 31 March 2026</p>

For more events see the [MelNet events calendar](#)

Denver, USA  
[Find out more](#)

**Online skin cancer education courses** for Primary Care Practitioners **starting anytime** can be found [here](#).

Courses starting **anytime**:

*Skin Cancer Symposiums*

[Advanced Certificate of Dermatoscopy](#)

[Dermatoscopy Masterclass](#)

[Mini course \(free\): Dermatoscopy and Melanomas](#)

*Skin Cancer College Australasia*

[Introduction to Skin Cancer](#)

*HealthCert*

[Skin Cancer Medicine](#)

[Skin Cancer Surgery](#)

[Dermoscopy](#)

[Medical Certificate of Dermoscopy for Dermatology](#)

[Advanced Certificate of Dermoscopy for Dermatology](#)

[Advanced Certificate of Histopathology for Dermoscopy](#)

[Masterclass in Dermoscopy](#)

## Recent MelNet website news postings

Below is a selection of recent news postings on the MelNet website. Please visit the [website](#) to view all the latest news items.

[Nicotinamide for skin cancer chemoprevention](#)

[Risk factors for incident nevus-associated vs de novo invasive melanoma](#)

[Association between painful, blistering, and/or severe sunburns and cSCC](#)

[Adjuvant nivolumab plus relatlimab does not improve recurrence-free survival compared with nivolumab alone after complete resection of stage III/IV melanoma](#)

[9-year final data support sustained finding of longer recurrence-free survival with nivolumab than with ipilimumab for resected stage III or IV melanoma](#)

[Stage II melanoma: Is there a “simple trick” to significantly improve event-free survival?](#)

[Review of keratinocyte carcinoma](#)

[Genomic copy-number variants drive apoptotic evasion underlying acquired resistance to immune checkpoint inhibitors](#)



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