



20 January 2026

### ***Happy New Year!***

*From all of us at MelNet – soon to be Skin Cancer New Zealand – we wish you a happy and healthy 2026.*

*We're heading into an exciting and important year. Over the coming months, we'll be launching several new initiatives that will shape the future of our organisation and strengthen our impact — including our refreshed brand and new opportunities to contribute to our work in more focused and meaningful ways. Keep an eye on your inbox — we'll be sharing more in the weeks ahead.*

*We look forward to working with you throughout 2026 as we continue to reduce the impact and incidence of skin cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand.*

### **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](#)

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### **Goodfellow-MelNet Skin Lesions and Dermatoscopy workshop | Build your confidence in diagnosing skin lesions**

**Friday 20 March 2026, 10.00 am – 5.00 pm**  
**Due Drop Events Centre, Auckland**

Join us at this pre-Goodfellow Symposium workshop on *Skin Lesions and Dermatoscopy*, presented by Honorary Professor and Dermatologist Amanda Oakley.

This beginner's workshop is designed to boost your confidence in diagnosing typical benign skin lesions, as well as identifying melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers. All health professionals undertaking skin examinations are invited to attend. You do not need to own a dermatoscope.

Co-hosted by MelNet and the Goodfellow Symposium, the workshop is endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners and approved by the College of Nurses Aotearoa NZ for professional development purposes.

[Find out more](#)   [Register now](#)

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## 2026 New Zealand Skin Cancer Summit: 18 – 20 June 2026 | Registration opening next month!

Registration for the 2026 New Zealand Skin Cancer Summit will open soon!

The first Summit under our new name *Skin Cancer New Zealand* will cover all types of skin cancer, not just melanoma. It will be held at the InterContinental Wellington.

The Summit theme “Equity in action: Bridging gaps for skin cancer” reflects our commitment to ensuring prevention, early detection, treatment, and support are accessible and equitable for everyone. The [programme](#) features engaging keynote presentations and interactive panels showcasing innovative research, practical strategies, and collaborative approaches.

Optional pre-Summit workshops will be held on 18 June: a half-day Skin Surgery Masterclass and a half-day Advanced Dermoscopy Masterclass.

The Summit itself will be held on 19 and 20 June.

Please save the dates and keep an eye on your inbox for the registration announcement next month.

[Find out more](#)    [View the draft programme](#)



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## SunSmart or SunSlack? A Closer Look at UV Protection in Aotearoa | Cancer Society webinar

**Date:** Tuesday 3 February

**Time:** 12.00 – 1.00 pm

In this webinar, Dr Bronwen McNoe - Senior Research Fellow at University of Otago - and Gemma Bevan - Head of Marketing and Communications at the Cancer Society of New Zealand - will share insights from a nationally representative survey of New Zealanders, exploring what people know, believe, and do when it comes to sun protection and UV exposure. It highlights public attitudes, behaviours, and gaps in understanding, and outlines what needs to change to better protect our communities under the sun.

The session will also touch on how these insights informed the development of a new Gen Z skin cancer prevention campaign, recognising that persistently high skin cancer rates in Aotearoa New Zealand point to a gap between knowledge and behaviour that traditional approaches are no longer closing.

[Register now](#)

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## Taranaki Medical Foundation 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary | Fundraiser Golf Tournament on 9 March

The [Taranaki Medical Foundation](#) (TMF) – a registered charity dedicated to advancing medical education, research, and collaboration for the benefit of the local community – celebrate their Diamond Anniversary in 2026. As part of this milestone, they are hosting the [TMF Diamond Anniversary Ambrose Invitational Golf Tournament](#) on Monday 9 March at Kaitake Golf Club in Taranaki. The event will promote SunSmart practice, skin cancer prevention and early detection, while raising funds for medical education and research in Taranaki.

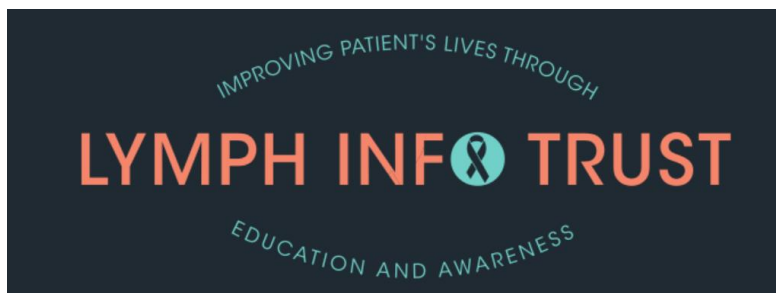
If you are in the area and keen to play a round of golf, this could be a worthwhile cause to support.

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## Lymph Info Trust Inaugural Conference on Lymphatic Disorders | 5 – 7 March, Havelock North

Dedicated to empowering care and advancing knowledge in lymphatic health, this conference is an opportunity to expand your clinical knowledge of lymphatic conditions, and discover new tools and therapies to enhance your practice and connect with others.

[Find out more](#)



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### In the media: How much sunscreen should be used to avoid sunburn

In this article, former MelNet Executive Committee member and Otago University senior research fellow Dr Bronwen McNoe explains how much sunscreen you should use to avoid sunburn. The formula to adhere to is 7 and 20: Seven teaspoons of sunscreen, 20 minutes before going out. This equates to a teaspoon of sunscreen per body region – the face, each leg, the trunk at the front, the trunk at the back and each arm.

This is an easy guideline to incorporate into patient conversations about sun safety.

[Read the article](#)

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### Tips and tricks

#### HealthCert webinar replay: *Skin cancer in skin of colour*

It is often assumed that those with skin of colour are at “low risk” of developing skin cancer, yet many diagnoses are delayed because early signs look different and routine dermoscopic patterns don’t always apply. In this webinar, Dr Mostafa Khalafalla unpacks the clinical realities behind skin cancer in skin of colour. Through real cases and practical examples, he walks through dermoscopic diversity, common diagnostic traps, and what to look for when the usual patterns aren’t there.

[Watch the webinar replay](#) on HealthCert’s blog

#### HealthCert podcast: *Nurse-Melanographer model – Essential insights for GPs and nurses*

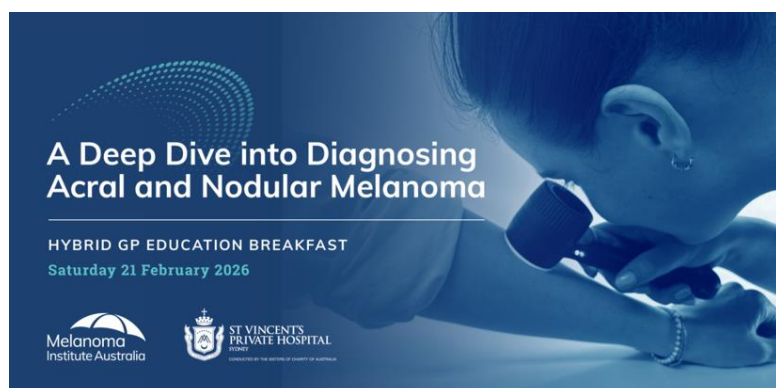
This podcast dives into the Nurse–Melanographer model – a proven approach that expands clinic capacity, improves patient access to skin cancer services, and creates rewarding career pathways for nurses and dermal clinicians.

This podcast is based on Australian settings. Some content may not apply to New Zealand.

[Listen to the podcast](#)

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### Upcoming opportunities and events



## Hybrid GP Education Breakfast: A Deep Dive into Diagnosing Acral and Nodular Melanoma | 21 February

Online (11am – 1pm NZDT) or in person in Sydney or Wagga Wagga (8:30am – 1pm AEDT)

This hybrid educational symposium is designed for experienced GPs who want to strengthen their dermoscopy skills and build greater confidence in diagnosing acral and nodular melanoma—aggressive subtypes that often challenge even seasoned clinicians. Hosted by the Melanoma Institute of Australia, the event will feature expert presentations and interactive panel sessions exploring the dermoscopic structures essential for identifying these challenging melanoma types.

[Find out more](#)



## RCPA Pathology Update 2026 | 6 – 8 March, Sydney

The Royal College of Pathologists Australasia (RCPA) annual conference for pathology professionals is where science meets medicine and collaboration drives progress. Across every discipline, from discovery to diagnosis, this year's event brings together the best minds in healthcare to explore new ideas and challenge established thinking to learn and innovate in pathology.

[Find out more](#)



## NZAGS Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) 2026 | 21 – 22 March, Dunedin

The meeting theme “Serving Communities, Embracing Innovation” speaks to the evolving role of general surgeons across Aotearoa. As we continue to provide essential surgical care to diverse populations, we are also navigating rapid advances in technology, models of care, and patient expectations. This meeting is a space to reflect on that dual commitment: to stay grounded in service, while reaching boldly towards progress.

[Find out more](#)

## Other upcoming opportunities and events

February	March
<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>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 Lesions 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>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 Denver, USA <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p>For more events see the <a href="#">MelNet events calendar</a></p>

**Skin Cancer Education targeted at Primary Care Practitioners** 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.

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

[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?](#)

[Tattoos may be a risk factor for cutaneous melanoma](#)

[Circulating IFN \$\gamma\$ -associated protein signatures predict response to neoadjuvant immunotherapy in patients with stage III melanoma](#)

[Incidence and associated risk factors of skin cancers in renal transplant recipients in Canterbury](#)

[Halving of Australian children’s naevus counts during 1992–2016 and change in sun behaviour](#)

[Long-term follow-up of real-world adjuvant anti–PD-1 checkpoint inhibition and targeted therapy in patients with stage III melanoma](#)

[Cumulative lifetime UVA exposure may be an underappreciated contributor to BCC and SCC risk](#)

[BO-112 plus pembrolizumab for patients with anti–PD-1–resistant advanced melanoma: Phase II clinical trial SPOTLIGHT-203](#)

[Melanoma Care Program to help early-stage melanoma patients manage fear of recurrence maintained effectiveness at 6- and 12-month follow-up](#)



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