
CANTERBURY & WEST COAST BRANCH REPORT

2022 was a very much a back-on-our-feet year 'post covid', with three meetings being held over the course of the year.

The highlight of the year was the AGM, which was well attended and included a keynote presentation from Kristen Maynard on her research on Te Tiriti o Waitangi and alcohol law. This was chosen given many of our branch members work in the kaupapa of reducing alcohol harm.

At the AGM our long serving chair Sara Epperson and treasurer Jude Clarke handed the rakau over to Christina Mckerchar and Portia Sutherland as co-chairs for 2023, and to Martin Witt as branch treasurer.





Branch co-chairs: Portia Sutherland and Christina Mckerchar

Portia has a Bachelor of Health Sciences degree from the University of Otago, majoring in Public Health with a minor in Politics. She is currently a Health Promoter at Te Mana Ora (working for Te Whatu Ora Waitaha and the National Public Health Service) and is focused on alcohol as a determinant of health, and how we work with communities at multiple levels to minimise its associated harms.

Christina (Ngāti Kahungunu, Tuhoe, Ngāti Porou) works as a lecturer at the Department of Population Health at the University of Otago – Christchurch. She has a background in nutrition but is broadly interested in the impact of unhealthy commodity industries impact on Hauora Māori. She has also researched food security, food sovereignty and sustainability, transport and social housing.

Martin Witt works as the Health Promotion Manager for the Cancer Society of New Zealand, Canterbury and West Coast Branch. He is an experienced health promoter and has had a long involvement with the PHA.