



August 2025 Newsletter

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Save the date for the FONS Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 24th September 2025

The AGM will be followed by a presentation organised the Early Career Task Force “Reflections on IUNS, Paris 2025”

Meeting time: 2pm Sydney/Melbourne, 4pm New Zealand and Fiji

Although anyone is welcome to join the AGM as an observer, only financial members can participate and vote, which brings up an important note:

If your membership fees are overdue, PLEASE get them paid as soon as you can. In these early stages FONS is very dependent on membership fees to meet our very modest costs and work towards becoming a meaningful and vibrant organisation in Oceania.

International Union of Nutrition Sciences (IUNS)



The BIG nutrition event for 2025 is the 23rd International Congress of Nutrition (ICN), happening at the Palais des Congrès, Paris, France from August 24-29, 2025. (see the [FONS February newsletter](#) for more information). If you are attending the ICN, see below for items of interest.

FONS catch up at IUNS 2025

Meet us for an informal catch up over lunch on Thursday from 12.45 – 1.45pm. If you would like to join, please let us know by emailing sburkhar@usc.edu.au and we will let you know where to meet closer to the time.

If you are going to be at IUNS visit the booth for our Oceania bid to host the IUNS-ICN 2029 in Brisbane. A true collaboration across the Oceania region, including FONS, NSA, NSNZ, ONLP and many others. Call in, support the team who have worked so hard to make this bid the best it can be.



Don't miss these Oceanic based symposia:

- Exploring the Role of Schools in Transforming Food Systems- A Pacific Perspective. Wednesday August 27th - 16:45 - 18:15, Room 341.
- Unique challenges and opportunities for sustainable diets and food systems in Oceania. Thursday August 28th - 11:15 - 12:45 Room 342A

FONS Task Forces Reports

Late last year the FONS committee put forward suggestions for Task Forces – groups who could work together towards a common goal, providing networking and support in specific areas. To that end four Task Forces were established. Both the Early Career and Dietary Assessment groups have produced their first webinars, and FONS now has a YouTube channel where you can view these events – see below.

Early Career Task Force

The Early Career Taskforce is a group of 8 nutrition researchers and professionals. Our purpose is to foster meaningful connections and collaborations among early career professionals in the field of nutrition across Oceania. Earlier this year we held our first online Masterclass with Professor Francine Marques from Monash University who shared her insights and tips about Networking ([Link to YouTube](#)). We look forward to hosting more webinars in the near future, and to connect with our FONS colleagues at the upcoming Nutrition Society Conferences.

Interested in more details, or becoming involved in the Task Force, please email our Co-Chairs: Jen Gale at jen.gale@otago.ac.nz or Michael Houghton at michael.houghton@monash.edu

Upcoming Event: 'Reflections from IUNS' Webinar to follow on from the AGM.

Dietary Assessment Task Force

The FONS Dietary Assessment Task Force aims to advance dietary assessment practices, research, and training across Oceania through collaboration, resource sharing, and advocacy. It brings together nutrition researchers and practitioners to discuss challenges and opportunities in dietary assessment, share existing resources, and explore future directions. Our webinar in May 2025, "Opportunities and Challenges for Dietary Assessment in Oceania," included expert speakers Salome Aroma Namohunu (UNICEF) and Jessica Raneri (Strategic Advisor, Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture, DFAT), who discussed how dietary assessment data is used in child and maternal nutrition programs and DFAT programming. The interactive session also featured breakout discussions for co-design and networking, followed by a panel discussion and audience feedback. The webinar can be viewed on the [FONS YouTube channel](#). If you're interested in joining the Dietary Assessment Task Force, please sign up using the Task Force form <https://forms.gle/RefW6wCBSxAuyM3b8>

Higher Education Task Force

The Higher Education Taskforce met in April to discuss ideas for how to form this group. The discussion included Professor Elaine Rush and Dr Katya Clark, who shared some of their work and perspectives of opportunities within the taskforce. There is no recording of this event as it was held in a small-group, workshop format. Another workshop will be held in the coming months to continue to progress this group. Please reach out to A/Prof Sarah Burkhart (sburkhar@usc.edu.au) or A/Prof Pragya Singh (pragya.singh@fnu.ac.fj) with any questions or if you would like to be involved.

Animal Nutrition Task Force

The Animal Nutrition Task Force is still in the early stages, gathering together interested parties. Dr Eugeni Roura is leading this initiative and would be delighted to hear from people from around Oceania working or researching in animal nutrition. e.roura@uq.edu.au

Donations



Over the past year we have been very grateful to receive donations totalling \$NZ1,300 from generous members and supporters.

If you would like to make a donation to help support FONS in these early stages, please make the payment into the FONS bank account (details below). Make sure to include in the details your name (Surname and initials) and the word 'donation'

Federation of Oceanic Nutrition Societies 06 0145 0825206 00

For International Payments - ANZ Bank New Zealand, SWIFT code ANZBNZ22.

ANZ Ponsonby, 308 Ponsonby Road, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.



FONS at the Nutrition Society of New Zealand (NSNZ) Conference

This year the NSNZ Conference is being held in Dunedin, and FONS will be well represented:

- Dr Jen Gale is the invited speaker at the Early Career event, talking about service and her involvement in FONS
- Elisiva Na'ati from SPC, Fiji is the FONS invited speaker
- Mafi Funaki-Tahifote has been invited by the NSNZ Council to give the Muriel Bell lecture.

The conference is 26 – 28th November.

This year's theme is ***Advancing Nutrition: Evidence, Translation, and Action***

For more information see the conference [website](#).

Nutrition Society of Australia 2025 ASM



Conference website [here](#)