

REPORT TO NZAP AGM, MARCH 2020

Otauhai Canterbury Branch

Tragically, 2019 in Otautahi Christchurch was shaped by another traumatic event in our city.

The pressure on our mental health services both public and private has been challenging. The branch organised a collective sign up with Victim Support of 13 members willing to undertake Victim Support work with mosque survivors and others affected. Several others also volunteered at the Charity Hospital.

There was a significant drop in numbers attending branch meetings over this past year. It's unclear what factors contribute to this. We changed venue at the start of 2019, to the Christchurch Arts Centre, wanting to make use of and support the beautiful restored space recently re-opened post-earthquake repairs. However, after the horrific mosque shootings, the Arts Centre became a silent witness to the hundreds of people grieving as they walked along the flowers left adjacent to the Botanical Gardens. At our April branch meeting, Siobhan Collins beautifully facilitated a space for us to connect, reflect and grieve together.

Over the year, we have had a varied and interesting programme. Marianne Quinn came from Dunedin to present a paper, "Wake up, shake up or break up: the impact of affairs on the couple"; Stephanie Forde came from Auckland to facilitate a discussion on ethics; Rose Robinson presented her work with "Watch, Wait and Wonder"; Matewawe Pouwhare came from Porirua to present on healing practices in working with historical and Intergeneration trauma; we had an evening focusing on the PDM-2, and another on Gestalt therapy. The branch organised an excellent day long Te Tiriti workshop which 12 members attended.

Several members of our branch are involved at national level with NZAP. We recognise the extraordinary contribution of time and energy of these folk. Sue Jones has been Honorary Secretary, Vicky Blake NZAP Treasurer, Siobhan Collins Chair of the ACP committee, and Susan Horne Co-Convenor of the TTBC committee. Over the past year we celebrated with Charlotte Daellenbach being awarded a Life Membership of NZAP.

The branch has been held by a small supportive committee which meets monthly for a shared meal. Joss Phiskie and Katherine Stewart have co-convened. Sarah Tritt continues to be our Treasurer, and Sarah Robins and Sophie Toutain complete our committee. Succession planning for someone to take on the convenor role has for a number of years proved challenging, and we are again facing this uncertainty after our May branch AGM. This creates uncertainty for what the branch can offer in the future. Alongside this present uncertainty, we also have a committee which continues to think about the branch programme and we have lined up some interesting presentations for the year which at a recent branch meeting people were energised to think about.

Katherine Stewart and Joss Phiskie
Co-Convenors