

REPORT TO NZAP AGM, MARCH 2020

Otago/Southland Branch

We began 2019 with 27 people attending our first meeting in February and while this number varied during the year we were seldom below 20 in attendance. Both myself (Annie) and Stella agreed to co-convene the meetings for the year and we were supported by our colleagues Marianne, Megan (Secretary) and Antonia (Treasurer). As a convening committee we met a number of times during the year to set the agenda for the upcoming meetings and to fill in any gaps.

We had two members retire this last year: Joy Hayward and Sue Griffiths. While they are still in contact with colleagues and the branch to some extent, these two long standing members will be a huge loss.

We have had a number of wonderful discussions during the year. We looked at our policies and procedures for our local branch and how we might record these for future reference, as so much of this knowledge is held in the minds of our more senior members. Marianne Quinn also led a group discussion regarding the audit process of PBANZ.

Presentations during the year were interesting and varied and included various members presenting themselves to the branch for the first time, while others presented their ACP case studies or dissertations. Below are the presentations we were treated to, after the general business of our meeting was completed.

- Feb:** Lillian Brown presented her ACP Case Study titled, “Handed over”, a therapeutic study of adoption, addiction and attachment.
- March:** Annie Bentjes presented the group with her Conversational model dissertation entitled “The Importance of Being (Earnest) Playful”.
- April:** Raquel Beeby presented herself to the branch following completion of her full registration with PBANZ.
- May:** Raewyn Stedman presented her senior project which was part of her gestalt training. The paper was titled “Beanbags and Biryani: Digesting the Third Culture Kid Experience in a Gestalt Context”.
- June:** During our meeting we asked our members to share what peer groups they were in e.g. supervision or reading groups; and details such as frequency of meeting, group size, whether it was an open group and the groups purpose. The purpose of having this discussion was to share with each other what is available and to give members the option of joining or starting new groups to meet their need. We then had a presentation and group discussion with Stephanie Forde on ethics: “Between a rock and a hard place”.
- July:** Midwinter dinner was enjoyed by many at a local restaurant.
- August:** We had a presentation by Daniel Brooks, who is the Community Engagement Coordinator – Kaimahi a Iwi – Te Waipounamu from the New Zealand Aids Foundation. This covered some of the key points of HIV in Aotearoa (current state of knowledge & epidemiology), the services that NZAF offer, and some details of current thinking around safer sex practices.
- September:** Joy Hayward presented on the background to a Family Therapy trial taking place with a family in North East Valley by members of NZAP. Jo McKenzie carried the second part of the talk and shared how the therapist participants (Reflecting Team) would observe their colleague working with the family and provide a reflective process. Then

Daniel Larsen presented the structure of the Family Therapy, problems maintained by the family dynamics and the need for change to move through the impasse.

October: John Farnsworth presented his ongoing work with Lynne Holdem regarding how the Government budget of \$650 million attributed to Mental Health will be distributed and used in its stages of roll out. Maria Snegirev a psychodramatist, then presented her history and journey to full membership by Registration to the Branch meeting. This was demonstrated in a psychodramatic way and she was warmly welcomed.

November: Linden Cook presented his Conversational Model training thesis on “The Desolation of Shame”.

December: CHRISTMAS FUNCTION!

Annie Beentjes
Convenor