

REPORT TO NZAP AGM, MARCH 2021

Otauhai Canterbury Branch

The February meeting was a connect and business meeting. A full and exciting programme was set.

We had been struggling as a branch over the last few years, however, the branch committee was committed to providing a programme until the end of the year.

Vicky Blake presented her paper (“The Presentation of Hate”) during the March meeting; this was very timely as it coincided with the first anniversary of the mosque shooting. As a number of our membership had been involved with the victims, we appreciated the space to be able to share and support each other.

As a consequence of COVID-19, we had to cancel meetings at short notice. Our committee continued to meet via Zoom or face to face as restrictions allowed.

On 13 June we lost Robyn Hewland who has been an active and valued member of our branch and NZAP over many years. Robyn attended our meetings up to the end of 2019.

Our AGM was held in July 2020, where it was agreed we needed to consult our members in relation to the long-term viability of our branch.

During our November meeting Michael Apathy and Selina Clare facilitated a discussion on the climate emergency and clinical work, which we found thought-provoking.

We held our Christmas dinner in December where we spent time honouring those members of our branch who had given time and energy to our branch over many years.

It was with sadness that the Otautahi committee agreed to put the branch into recess. As to the future into 2021 and beyond, it is envisaged that interested members will facilitate seminars, presentations, meals and get to togethers on an ad hoc, informal basis. Our newsletter member has kindly offered to continue to send out information to branch members as the need arises.

Sue Jones and Joss Phiskie
Co-Convenors