

REPORT TO NZAP AGM, MARCH 2021

Professional Development and Conference Committee

The last year has been a very challenging year for people in all sorts of ways which I imagine will be reflected in all the reports.

Many of us had to adjust to different ways of working and many scheduled events had to be cancelled or postponed.

The conference that was to be held in Wellington was very much effected and the keynote speaker Dr Hedges ended up delivering his talks by Zoom, while in isolation. Some people had travelled to Wellington and were able to spend some time together. Many people chose not to attend.

Council asked the Committee to explore the possibility to have the scheduled speakers present their papers online through Zoom. Although this was outside our ToR with Council, we decided that because of the unusual situation we would go ahead and organise this.

We are very grateful for the presenters who were able to present in this way: Alisa Hirschfeld, Marie Franklin, John Farnsworth, Seán Manning, Suzanne Johnson, Ros Lewis, Rod Sandle and Diane Zwimpfer. Seán Manning kindly edited some of the sessions and they are on the NZAP website.

This interest shown in this format highlights that this different format works for many people, although it doesn't substitute face-to-face meetings. This opens up possibilities to get overseas speakers to present through Zoom.

The Wellington Conference Committee needs to be acknowledged for the way they had to manage an everchanging situation. They did a great job under the circumstances. They also provided the Committee with helpful feedback.

Unfortunately, through the year we lost Dinah Cameron and Alayne Hall as committee members. Near the end of the year, we asked for suggestions for speakers and also for people willing to join the committee. Seán Manning has joined us, but we would very much like more people to join. Some helpful suggestions came our way, and these will be followed up.

Our task is not necessarily to organise events but to facilitate and help people do so.

We encourage anybody who would like to join to contact us.

Robert Ford
Seán Manning
Marian Vlaar (chair)