

REPORT TO NZAP AGM, JUNE 2022

Ata: Journal of Psychotherapy Aotearoa New Zealand

Introduction

Kia Ora Koutou,

The work of the Journal has continued to be productive and creative in 2021-2022, albeit regrettably somewhat impacted by the effects of the Pandemic.

Most recent issue: Te Ipu Taiao - The Climate Crucible, and other papers, volume 25, number 1, September 2021.

The above issue of the journal was published in 2021. (The second issue of 2021 was delayed due to the pandemic (see below)).

We were pleased with the depth of the contributions published in this issue. We were particularly pleased to publish the articles in this issue which were specifically relevant to the climate crisis that faces us all. In our editorial we noted that the capacity for grief is not only central to the individual patient in our clinical rooms. Perhaps more urgently than ever, the centrality of this capacity challenges the whole of humanity, as the climate crisis and its life-threatening sequelae looms ever more frighteningly before us. Indeed, the current COVID-19 pandemic and its terrifying consequences invite us all to face the implications of an approach to life in which for so long we as human beings have assumed our superior dominion over the Earth and the more than human world. The temptations of consumerism, technology, individualism, and material wealth have seduced humanity to believe the fiction of our superiority. COVID-19 and its relationship to the climate crisis that we all face, have, like Icarus, brought us shudderingly back to Papatūānuku, and with this crashing fall we face our tremendous collective fear and grief, as we face the loss of the fantasy of a planet under our control. We meet instead the truth of our humanity: that the Earth is not “our” planet, to be lived upon, dominated, and owned, but rather that we are in and of the Earth, that the human and the more than human world are interdependent and inseparable, and that our lives are changing and must change, if we are to live a life that respects this intertwined interdependence. To do so we must grieve our losses, and face the future together, connected to the tenderness of our humanity, and of the Earth’s and our own vulnerability. Those contributions in this issue which drew from material presented at the New Zealand Association of Psychotherapists’ (NZAP) 2021 online conference, “Te Ipu Taiao – The Climate Crucible”, all from different angles drew attention to the above challenges.

Upcoming issues of the Journal

Work on the Journal for 2022 is progressing soundly. As previously reported, with regret the second issue of 2021, originally scheduled for December 2021, has been delayed due to implications of the pandemic, and consequent effects on the work of the editors. However, we are pleased that we are continuing to progress the preparations for this delayed issue which we are now aiming to publish in late June 2022. We have received a range of articles from various authors throughout Aotearoa New Zealand, which we are confident will provide stimulating and engaging reading for our members. We have completed the peer review process for these

submissions, and the sub editing phase. This issue will be a generic issue, with papers on various aspects of psychotherapy, particularly within the Aotearoa New Zealand context. Given the lateness of this issue, we intend to publish two further issues in 2022, in August and November. We have already begun gathering submissions for the August issue which will focus on papers presented at the NZAP Ka Mua Ka Muri conference.

As always, we thank Hineira Woodard for her generous and expert work providing te reo Māori interpretations of the abstracts; tēnā koe, Hineira. Our considerable thanks to our creative, skillful, and eagle-eyed designer, Katy Yiakmis; tēnā koe, Katy. Thank you to Nikky Winchester for her dedicated and skillful work as sub-editor: tēnā koe Nikky. And we are delighted to have the ever capable and always generous Luisa Maloni join the team as assistant to the editors: tēnā koe Luisa.

Conclusion

We the co-editors of the journal, Wiremu Woodard and John O'Connor, are enjoying working together, in collaboration with writers with diverse perspectives in relation to psychotherapy particularly within the Aotearoa New Zealand context. We are looking forward to continuing to develop the Journal, and in particular to the publication of the next issues, which we anticipate will provide stimulating and engaging reading.

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.

John O'Connor

Co-editor: Ata: Journal of Psychotherapy Aotearoa New Zealand