

President's Report to Council May 31, 2022

Tēnā koutou e te whānau

Anna Fleming, Claire Miranda, Crispin Balfour, Gabriela Mercado Genevieve Scase and I have survived the camaraderie, the serendipity and concerns that built Ka mua ka muri. We all felt proud that we delivered a creative and stimulating online conference for members and they responded, participated generously. The papers were insightful and intelligent; the speakers insightful, entertaining and thought provoking. The feedback tremendous. The profit was good especially given our anxiety about registration numbers in December. Personal highlights included the soulful presence and moving poetry of Glenn Colquhoun and Victoria Smith's lovely tribute to him; Ko Anna raua ko tana pepi tama softly sung to sleep in her arms with lullaby from Glenn. Bringing Patricia Gherovici and Adam Phillips together required some faith, some nerves of steel in the lead up. But their conversation was "delightful, thought provoking, fascinating" (to quote Alisa Hirschfeld). I loved the spaces that opened up for memory, reverie, feeling and feistiness in the panels and groups. Many thanks to Anna who backed my crazy plan and all others who jumped on board. E te tumanaki o te Waka Oranga, Anna, ngā mihi nui kia a koe. Kia ora rawa atu.

I'm interested to see what the Academy team are cooking up for the Professional Development needs of members going forward. I understand John Farnsworth has been making digital magic happen and it will be terrific to see how members respond and what comes arises in this space in the next year or two. I imagine that seminars will appeal to potential members, ACP candidates, full members and allied professionals. I think this may bring benefits for public recognition of the association and of psychotherapy too.

I have liaised with Donny Riki regarding possible members for the TTBC but no names have come forward. She understood that a longer warm up to the constitutional change needed to make the chair of TTBC a member of Executive meant postponing the vote until AGM 2023. I welcome suggestions from Council of people to approach whom they see as suitable to lead and support the integration of the principles of Te Tiriti into the future development of the association and to chair a small TTBC group.

The Professional Development and Conference committee requires new leadership and it would be good to talk further with the Academy team about how these two parts of the association might work together or further define their roles and responsibilities. I am concerned that so far we have a one day PD event organised for 2023 in Auckland and think we should give thought to how we might generate further energy or ease the path and commitment of organising groups.

The group who spoke with us about the Conversion Bill at the last Council meeting proposed an email direct to members to contribute to the development of NZAP Conversion therapy policy. Since I felt this proposed a direction somewhat different from the one we discussed at Council I requested that Council discuss their proposal at the June meeting. Gavin Stansfield has also requested another meeting with Council apropos their initiative.

Thanks to John O'Connor and the ACP committee for work done to enliven and bring national cohesion to the ACP Supervisors' online group and the liaison with PBANZ re accreditation standards.

Ata continues to provide thought leadership, communication and education for members. The newsletter under the leadership of Marianna Ackermann gives members a voice, updates them re Council actions and provides delight and connection for us.

The Mental Health and Addictions team inspired and led by John Farnsworth continues to provide a thinking and action place for promotion of psychotherapy in government, NGO and in public.

Thank you Council members for holding tight and rowing with all strength in this NZAP waka shaken and tossed by big waves of change and controversy brought on by the need for wise, but urgent, adaptation and leadership in Covid times and in the post-registration era. We are navigating the restraints and pursuing the possibilities with vision as we steer this twin hulled waka through the challenges to do better with Te Tiriti relationships and justice; to provide 'sticky places' for new generations of psychotherapists, ACP candidates and students where they can talk with others, write, speak and learn about psychotherapy good practice and contribute to the development of psychotherapy in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Thank you all for your leadership, your support and the guidance you have given me in my time as President. E Anna, kia ora, he nui wahine, he nui pūwharawhara. You will see your leadership and influence scatter seeds and grow. It was a huge honour for me to nourish relationships with Council members and Waka Oranga crew and to serve NZAP members in the last two and a half years. I look forward to handing over the privilege and responsibility to Gabriela at the AGM. It is time. I feel absolute confidence that Gabriela will bring inspired leadership, caring governance, a passion for connection to the tasks ahead of us. She has been doing this for some time.

Mā te huruhuru te manu ka rere
Adorn this bird with feathers to fly

Nā Lynne Holdem