

# REPORT TO NZAP COUNCIL, OCTOBER 2022

## Academy Report, September 2022

### Background

This brief report largely represents the background work taking place before the Academy can be launched to the whole Association. I will add that a number of the Academy team members have multiple commitments in other areas: the Council, other committees and Waka Oranga. Along with the demanding winter and Covid wave we have just experienced, it has restricted the energy and time we have had available. Nonetheless, there was sense of anticipation and optimism about the outlook and coming launch at our meeting on September 7.

### Developments

We have a **launch for the Academy**: a Zoom event on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 7:15pm – 8:45pm**. This will be a mixture of presentation about what the site offers and discussion with members about how they can make use of it.

We will still be partly under construction for some areas, which take longer to build, but major areas for peer groups and training modules will be immediately available. Professional Development modules will follow into the New Year and beyond, since these involve more background work.

We have just upgraded to the full professional site. It has a separate domain name ([www.academynzap.co.nz](http://www.academynzap.co.nz)). Anyone can now visit this link, and please do. You'll see some parts being constructed as we approach the launch.

In the meantime, we have been preparing specific areas. One is the ACP which may, in turn, assist discussions with PBANZ. This may include a request for PBANZ to add links on its site back to the Academy. Similarly, Ashburn Clinic has just agreed we can highlight its Seminar Series perhaps on a separate page. This is significant because Ashburn offers one of the few psychotherapy theory courses within Aotearoa and it can be studied from anywhere in the country. Separately, we are developing a profile that will help the Public Issues team demonstrate NZAP has a workable platform for mental health workforce development. We are also discussing how we attract mental professions to workshops and training directly from the site. These are part of the broad strategy to make the Academy a central, interactive learning and resource hub for mental health within Aotearoa New Zealand.

To be effective requires us to take careful steps about how we offer access to non NZAP members to the site; how we promote repeat visits; how we manage services and payments with providers of modules; how we provide certificates for specific modules; how we consider requests, comments and complaints; how we offer a profile to public institutions such as the Ministry of Health, and how we link consistently with the NZAP site.

### Changes

In the process we are, unhappily, losing Verity Armstrong. She has not only been a valuable voice in her own right, but has been our connection with Waka Oranga. We do not yet know how we sustain a connection with Waka Oranga or consult well concerning tikanga Maori for the Academy. On the other hand, we are delighted to be joined by Matt Bird who brings addictions and website experience with him. His presence has already assisted with the final website design: He, Claire Miranda, and I are jointly working on numerous backend needs for the site, and I'm very grateful to have their commitment.

We have also been assisted by developing two small feedback teams of newer members of the Association. These are lively and valuable to have. They are currently located in Otago and Canterbury, but we are discussing groups for Wellington and Auckland and, perhaps, Nelson. Their responses about user experience with the site as it develops is very useful as a way to test aspects of the site. Equally, by drawing on new NZAP members we can capture 'millennial' experience and that is a way of easily increasing participation in the full Association.

### Conclusion

It goes without saying that we invite every Council member to the launch event. It marks a significant moment for the Association with a new approach to learning, interaction, training and online involvement. In the meantime, I want to express my gratitude to the members of the Academy team for their involvement and work despite the pressures we have recently faced: John O'Connor, Claire Miranda, Victoria Smith, Veronica Watt, Verity Armstrong and Matt Bird.

Also to Luisa Maloni, whose easy responsiveness is already important to creating a full and lively site.

John Farnsworth  
7 September 2022