

REPORT TO NZAP COUNCIL, NOVEMBER 2023

From the President

These past few months have brought valuable insights, opportunities, and connections, setting the stage for further growth and impact. I am excited about what lies ahead for our Association, and I look forward to the upcoming Council meeting in November, where we'll dive deeper into the matters that shape our community of colleagues. Thank you for your continued support and commitment, it is a pleasure to work with each and all of you.

The past four months have seen a significant surge of activity within our Association. In addition, in August we also kicked off our monthly 90-minute Council meetings, designed to keep us on track, well-informed, and equipped to address issues as they arise. Anticipated is that these meetings will pave the way for a more substantial and in-depth gathering for us in November.

Name change: We recently announced the decision to postpone the Special General Meeting to provide Council with an opportunity for an in-depth exploration of our position. Hoped is that this move will allow us to consider all the nuances before involving our entire membership in the conversation.

SOGICE report: In September, Council tabled the thoughtful and nuanced Report on SOGICE prepared by the Research Group led by Gavin Stansfield. To honour the good work that the Research Group devoted to preparing the Report, a more detailed discussion will take place at our longer meeting in November.

Psychotherapy Day: Our annual free event, which featured a presentation from Prof Desa Markovic, saw a considerable national turnout. This gathering provided an opportunity for regional in-person interactions. However, it became apparent from the feedback that members not associated with a branch were missing out on regional news. We have since received a suggestion to explore the concept of creating a virtual national branch for those who cannot access a physical branch. This idea merits further exploration by both Council and our membership.

Professional Development and Conference Committee (PDCC): The need for a proactive committee dedicated to identifying and supporting members interested in organizing conferences has been a topic of discussion within Council. I recently met with Robert Ford, the last member of PDCC, who decided to step down from the committee. Nevertheless, he has graciously offered his support to the new committee.

Annual Visit to AUT Master Students: Anna Fleming and I had a stimulating conversation with the soon-to-graduate psychotherapy students at AUT. We presented and discussed the vital role of NZAP/Waka Oranga Association and the benefits of belonging to our community of colleagues.

Insurance Update: It's worth noting that our insurance provider, Crombie Lockwood, has undergone a name change to Gallagher. To ensure continuity of our policy, I contacted our broker, Keith Woodlock, who reassured us that the NZAP scheme remains unchanged despite this rebranding.

Breaking Bad: In our capacities as President and President Elect, John O'Connor and I embarked on a journey to engage with our regional communities through a paper presentation titled "Breaking Bad: Thinking the Unthinkable, Feeling the Unbearable, and Imagining what Does Not Yet Exist". Our first stop in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland witnessed a lively and moving conversation with a well-attended audience.

Ngā mihi nui,

Gabriela Mercado
President