

REPORT TO NZAP AGM, JUNE 2024

From the Otago/Southland Branch

To have fullest access during these covid times our branch has met monthly in a hybrid fashion both in person at Community House in Central Dunedin and via zoom.

We have had a variety of subjects for our meetings:

Presentations

- Our February meeting was a discussion facilitated by Trisha Bennett and Maria Bowden, to work out our branch's future with some vacancies in our organizing committee.
- In March we acknowledged and showed appreciation of Marianne Quinn's contribution and service to NZAP Otepoti Branch. Marion (Min) Hammond and Renee Allayne then presented their program: Living Fully groups to our members. The groups were for women, and are funded by ACC. Each woman needs to be in individual therapy and be ready for the program.
- In April we celebrated Life Membership Award for John Farnsworth: After a beautiful opening Karakia by Tanya, Antonia read the citation of John's Life Membership Award and then presented the award to John. Members spoke, as did John, inviting people to reminisce on their first memories of being part of NZAP. This was stimulating and thought-provoking.
- Marcelle Nader-Turner joined us in May to presenting on her PhD topic. "Nice Boys who Rape and the Girls who Ruin their Lives". Marcelle presented her research which was for many confronting and disturbing, and raised important discourses to discuss.
- "Psychedelics in Psychotherapy" was the June topic. This is specifically focused on MDMA and was presented by Veronica Watts who met with us via zoom.
- We met for a Midwinter Dinner in July at a local restaurant for a warming meal and time together.
- In August Sandie Forsyth came to our meeting to talk about poetry, for National Poetry Month. Sandie is a poet and well-respected (now retired) counsellor. Her link of poetry to retirement offered a valuable link to creativity in the work we do.
- In September we met with our national group and heard Professor Desa Markovic's presentation: Working with sexual issues in psychotherapy.
- Seán Manning did a mihi to welcome Heath Te Au for our October meeting. Heath described his experiences working at the Community Alcohol and Drug Service (now Specialist Addiction Service) at Te Whatu Ora. Heath has left this service and discussed the frustration about some medications requiring special authority and the lack of a walk-in clinic.
- Our November meeting was cancelled, and we met for a picnic in December.

- The beginning of the year was very uncertain with only one volunteer of the three volunteer positions held in our organising committee.
- The March meeting was greeted with both the secretary and treasurer positions filled so that our meetings could continue.
- In April Antonia Muir led a discussion about unconscious process.
- Cindy Smith joined us for in May to present her thoughts about “Pseudo Transferences and her thoughts when everything seems to be working through in the relational transference, when actually nothing is really happening except a collusion, an avoidant but satisfying narcissistic experience.”