

REPORT TO NZAP AGM, JUNE 2024

From the Honorary Secretary

Tēnā koutou katoa,

This year we mourned several longstanding members of our Association: Margaret Bowater, Toni Shepherd and Virginia Edmond. Each gave a significant contribution both to the Association and to the profession in their community and clinical work. At the recent conference in Rotorua we were able to acknowledge them as we sat together.

This has been the first year of our two-tiered retirement membership, we have farewelled several members who have moved into full retirement. They will be invited to contribute a reflection on their years of psychotherapy to the newsletter, so we hope to hear from some. Our numbers have swelled with new members too this year, students of psychotherapy and newly registered psychotherapists. It is heartening to see the desire to join with colleagues and be part of the Association. I hope new members feel welcomed, and encouraged to attend local branches where possible, online gatherings such as Mindfields, and to volunteer for roles locally or nationally. It is such a good way to get to know other members.

I'm aware of this particularly this year, as I step down from the role of Honorary Secretary after 3 years. I have greatly enjoyed the people on Council, and appreciated the opportunity to work alongside colleagues committed to the Association.

Also leaving Council at this AGM are:

Delia Crozier, Honorary Treasurer, who has been a diligent and hard working Treasurer, and most thoughtful Council member,

Victoria Smith, who has served Council for the past seven years, and has been a faithful advocate for psychotherapy with ACC and AHA NZ (Allied Health Aotearoa NZ). Victoria received her Distinguished Service Award at the recent conference, along with Helen Packard. It was wonderful to be able to acknowledge them both for their contributions,

Marianna Ackerman, who has been on Council and Newsletter Editor for the past two years. Marianna as you know, has brought her skill and creativity to the role of editor, she will be greatly missed both for her insights around the Council table, as well as her thoughtful weaving together of articles and contributions to each edition of the newsletter.

Council is delighted to be joined by Kate Rent Dennie, who has been appointed as Chair of Ethics and Professional Standards. You will be aware that this position has been vacant since last year, so we are very glad to welcome Kate.

Thanks too, to Jane Tuson, who has agreed to be co-opted by Council to the role of Honorary Treasurer, until the 2025 AGM, and Vijay Mahantesh who is willing to be co-opted until 2025 into the role of Honorary Secretary. We are grateful for your willingness and welcome you warmly to the Council table.

Two ordinary member positions will be vacant at this AGM, and elections will be held to fill these. Ordinary members on Council add to the variety of voices around the table, and often take on specific projects such as the website, or liaison with outside agencies.

At this AGM, John O'Connor will step into the presidency, and Gabriela Mercado into her year of being the immediate past president. They bring such a strong team approach to their leadership, we are fortunate to have this duo for another year.

There is one main piece of business at this AGM, apart from the regular agenda items such as reports and elections.

The possible name change for our Association has stirred a great deal of discussion and thought – there seems to be wide agreement for the long awaited inclusion of 'Aotearoa' in our name, and less agreement on changing 'Psychotherapists' to 'Psychotherapy'. There are a total of six remits to consider – which can be found here:

<https://nzap.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/List-of-Remits-June-AGM-2024-.pdf>

Please come prepared to have your say on which one you feel represents us best. Now Council just needs to work out an online voting system for the night!

As I step down from this role, I would like to extend special thanks to Luisa Maloni, who has now been in the role of NZAP administrator for two and a half years. Luisa is a real pleasure to work with, she is warm and approachable, as well as conscientious and efficient. We are in good hands.

Look forward to seeing you on June 19th,

Ngā mihi nui,

Catriona Cairns