

Honorary Secretary report to Council, June 2024

We are soon to hold our Annual General Meeting, in which I will be stepping down, along with Delia, Marianna and Victoria.

I was pleased to meet with Vijay Mahantesh, our new co-opted Honorary Secretary. Vijay will fill the role and hopefully stand for election at the 2025 AGM, when the term is up. I feel sure that Vijay will be well guided by Council and especially by Luisa, who by now has a great deal of knowledge about the Honorary Secretary role. She is also a very good teacher!

Council will be aware of the 2022 updated Incorporated Societies Act. Elsewhere in this meeting I will explain in further detail what this new legislation means for us. The changes required in our Constitution need the approval of membership, I suggest that instead of trying to explain the detail to members at an AGM, Council call a Special General Meeting when the draft changes are ready. This way the focus is kept on this one topic. I was hoping to have progressed further with the Constitutional changes needed leading up to our re-registration date deadline of April 2026.

Faye Gorman and I were beginning to work on the most significant change required, which is for us to outline a disputes process for NZAP. As you will be aware, this covers disputes within the Association, between members, or members and Council. It is not related to a member's clinical practice, so is not a complaints procedure.

Unfortunately Faye needed to resign, and so it will fall to the new team to draft this, with Council's support.

Membership numbers continue to grow slowly, we have had a lot of interest from new student members which is pleasing to see. In this latest subscription renewal period, we have had members move into semi or full retirement. These two new categories appear to be working usefully.

We have had some very sad times in the past seven months as an Association, mourning the loss of Margaret Bowater, Toni Shepherd and Virginia Edmond.

I would like to wish Council all the best for the coming year, John O'Connor as he steps into the Presidency, and Gabriela as she takes a step back. I have very much appreciated Gabriela's warm leadership. I especially want to offer my thanks and warmest wishes to Luisa, who has supported me and the Association so well.

It has been a pleasure to work alongside colleagues on Council, I have learned a great deal about what it requires to make the Association function, and my heartfelt thanks to those who continue to put generous time and effort into volunteering on Council.

Ngā mihi nui,

Catriona Cairns